

**EASTERN INTERIOR ALASKA
SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**VOLUME III
PUBLIC MEETING**
October 21, 1994
Tok Civic Center
8:30 o'clock a.m.
Tok, Alaska

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

**LEE A. TITUS, CHAIRMAN
BILL FLIRIS, VICE CHAIRMAN
JEFFREY ROACH, SECRETARY
STEVEN GINNIS, MEMBER
RANDY MAYO, MEMBER
CHARLES MILLER, SR., MEMBER
SELINA PETRUSKA, MEMBER
JOHN STARR, JR., MEMBER
VINCE MATHEWS, COORDINATOR**

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(On record; 8:30 o'clock a.m.)

MR. TITUS: Call the meeting to order. The next item on the agenda is the Status of Navigable Waters, Fisheries Management, Litigation and Planning. If the board would look in Section 5 of their books in the Annual Report. This was discussed at prior meetings. And I'll just read for the record what the Annual Report states: "The Eastern Interior Council concluded that the Federal Subsistence Management Program cannot adequately protect the preference for subsistence use of fish as long as navigable waters are excluded from the definition of Federal Public Lands. Furthermore, it is incomprehensible to have a subsistence management program that includes wildlife but does not include fish. This is difficult to reconcile with the knowledge that for most subsistence users, fish constitutes a large portion of the diet in wildlife. The council unanimously supported the recommendation that the Federal Subsistence Management Program be extended to include authority over navigable waters. In addition, the council also discussed action the Federal Government could take even in the absence of management authority over navigable waters. First, the Federal Government should take a strong, favorable stance for subsistence in U.S.-Canada Fisheries Treaty negotiations. Second, the Federal Government should provide funds for fisheries research to determine the cause of declining salmon runs and to develop management programs to rehabilitate these runs." This was in our Annual Report. So, did you....

MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, if you would like an update of the status of the litigation, I can provide that for you. Okay. Please note I'm not an attorney. Essentially, on March 30th, 1994, the Federal District Court, Judge Holland issued a ruling consolidating the Katie John case. There's two questions associated with the consolidated case: that's the "Who" question or the "Who Issue" and then the "Where Issue." With respect to the "Who Issue", the court ruled that the Federal Government has the authority for the day-to-day management of subsistence uses. The State argued that Title 8 does not grant the authority for day-to-day management activities such as setting seasons and bag limits, methods and means. Then we go on to the "Where Issue" which has now been somewhat titled "Where 1 Issue." Again, I'm not an attorney. The "Where Issue 1" is whether Title 8 of subsistence priority applies to subsistence fishing in navigable waters. The judge ruled that "...for purposes of Title 8, navigable waters are public lands, thus the subsistence priority

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applies. However, the court's decision has been stayed while it's being appealed to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals." I'll just go on with that. "The Katie John ruling also revealed some of the court's thoughts on the "Where 2 Issue" which concerns whether the Federal Subsistence Board has powers to regulate wildlife harvest that occur off of public lands but negatively impacts subsistence hunting on public lands. The court tentatively holds the opinion that the Secretaries haven't delegated that authority to the board. The court also expressed interest in whether the Secretaries have such power, but did not express an opinion on this issue." There's an additional case that addresses Fisheries management that I can review for you, if you'd like. Okay. It's the Quinhagak litigation. It's concerning several villages including Quinhagak that filed a request for preliminary injunction allowing them to engage in subsistence fishing for rainbow trout in navigable waters. The District Court Judge, Judge Holland, denied the request. The villages appealed the District Court's decision to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals reversed the District Court's decision on September 1, 1994, saying that the District Court had erred in its rationale it used in denying the request. The issue has been returned to District Court.

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25 Maybe if the chair and the council would like to change a little bit on the agenda, a later agenda item is the NARC Petition which I could cover now or we could pick it up later. The NARC Petition is the Northwest Arctic Regional Council Petition. If you want, I could cover it now because 30 envelopes into the Fisheries and other issues. But we can wait. It's up to your direction, Mr. Chairman. It's....

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33 MR. TITUS: Oh, that's Section D, right? E. E.

34

35 MR. MATHEWS: Yes.

36

37 MR. TITUS: Okay.

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39 MR. MATHEWS: It's up to you. I can wait to do it then or do it now.

41

42 MR. TITUS: It's almost the same as what you're doing now, right?

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45 MR. MATHEWS: It's the same as what I'm doing now.

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47 MR. TITUS: Yeah, might as well cover that while we're at it.

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1 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Mr. Chairman, and council, in Tab
 No. 7 is a letter to General Counsel for the United States
 Department of Agriculture that you may want to look at while I
 give you a review of the NARC Petition. The NARC Petition is
 a rule-making submitted by, like I said, the Northwest Arctic
 Regional Council and other Native groups and it's now been
 called the NARC Petition. Let's see where I should go from
 here. Okay. The petition is asking for rule-making that,
 one, the Federal Government has the authority to regulate
 fishing and hunting on non-public lands if such uses interfere
 with subsistence uses on public lands. And, two, selected but
 not conveyed lands are within purview of the subsistence
 priority. And -- yes, that's the right wording. And to give
 you an idea of what the standing is now, the board has not --
 has to date not asserted authority over hunting and fishing
 on non-Federal lands. Current Federal regulations exclude lands
 selected but not conveyed to Native corporations and the State
 of Alaska. The question of jurisdictions for the purposes of
 Title 8 over State and Native-selected lands is known as the
 "Where 3 Issue." So, now we have a Where 1, a Where 2, and a
 Where 3. The petition was submitted on April 12th, 1994 to
 the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture. The Secretaries
 will soon issue a Federal Register notice soliciting public
 comments on the petition. As of our staff meeting last week,
 there's no date set of when that Federal Register will come
 out soliciting public comments. I would think the council
 will receive a copy of that Federal Register. Hopefully, the
 notice time for commenting will fall within your next meeting,
 so you may want to comment on that. That in a nutshell is the
 fisheries management litigation. There is a slash there on
 planning."

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33 The Federal Subsistence Board charged the Office of
 Subsistence Management to come up with a contingency plan in
 case the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals goes to having Federal
 jurisdiction cover navigable waters. So, the office has
 developed a contingency plan which is in for review
 externally. So, we are making tentative plans if we are to
 have jurisdiction over navigable waters. And that, in a
 nutshell, is the litigation and planning behind navigable
 waters and the NARC Petition.

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43 MR. TITUS: In the No. 1 where it states that the
 Federal Government has the authority to regulate hunting and
 fishing on non-public lands, that's -- non-public lands, is
 that State?

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48 MR. MATHEWS: That's State lands. If I understand it

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correctly, would be similar to -- it'd be easier to focus on a migratory species like caribou; that if the herd is detrimented by activities outside Federal lands, that the jurisdiction of Federal lands due to the subsistence priority would reach out and say that herd needs to be managed to protect the subsistence interests that are on Federal lands. Again, I'm not an attorney, but that's my interpretation of it.

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9 MR. TITUS: Okay. Jeff?

10

11 MR. ROACH: Mr. Chairman, just to clarify one thing: it's not just State lands; it's also Native lands and private lands, as well.

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15 MR. TITUS: Right.

16

17 MR. MATHEWS: Right. There's two components there. One is off and general and the other one is the selected but not conveyed lands which are presently looked at as private lands.

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22 MR. TITUS: So, No. 1 deals strictly with State lands, but No. 2 gets into the other privately owned lands, right?

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25 MR. ROACH: Mr. Chairman, I don't think that's correct. I think that No. 1 deals with State lands, already conveyed Native lands, and private land.

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29 MR. MATHEWS: See, the question comes up and I -- others may want to add in on this. But on Native-selected lands, there's still a question as -- they've not been conveyed; that they're still considered Federal lands. So, there's a question there. That's why this would have -- that's why this has been separated out as two things because, in theory, No. 1 covers it all, but there's a question of that land that's been selected but not conveyed as to who has ownership, I suppose would be the term.

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39 MR. TITUS: Bill?

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41 MR. FLIRIS: Mr. Chairman, I make a motion that the Eastern Interior Regional Council support the NARC Petition.

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44 MR. TITUS: Motion. Do I hear a second?

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46 MR. GINNIS: Second.

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48 MR. TITUS: It's been moved and seconded. Discussion?

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1 MR. FLIRIS: Mr. Chairman?

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3 MR. TITUS: Bill?

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5 MR. FLIRIS: I feel like this is a good idea because
6 in our area, in particular, along the river where most people
7 do hunting is Native land and that land currently falls under
8 State management practices which doesn't allow for subsistence
9 uses by rural residents and it doesn't place a priority on
10 subsistence uses. So, from that point of view, I favor this
11 idea.

12

13 MR. TITUS: Jeff?

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15 MR. ROACH: Mr. Chairman, I'm a bit concerned with the
16 way the NARC Petition reads as far as the Federal Government's
17 authority to regulate off Federal lands. The subsistence --
18 the whole idea behind ANILCA was to allow subsistence
19 preference on Federal lands and that came about because of
20 concerns because there was so much land being selected and put
21 into the Federal Government's control under new parks, new
22 refuges, new preserves. And to allow the Federal Government
23 then expand their authority to all lands surrounding, that
24 takes away the State's ability to manage resources on their
25 lands, that takes away Native communities -- Native village
26 councils' ability to manage wildlife on their lands. If the
27 Federal Government says it's going to affect something that
28 happens on a preserve or a refuge or a park, then those
29 surrounding lands aren't going to have the ability to manage
30 that. That includes inholdings as well. I mean, if you've
31 got an inholding, Native inholding, up at Gates of the Arctic,
32 for instance, and there's moose walking across that inholding
33 and going into Federal lands, then the Federal Government is
34 going to be able to manage everything within there. I mean,
35 we're opening up a whole can of worms that's going to take
36 away some of the ability of other agencies to manage fish and
37 wildlife on their lands.

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39 MR. TITUS: Any more on discussion? Bill?

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41 MR. FLIRIS: Mr. Chairman, I think I disagree with
42 Jeff on that because I don't think the purpose of ANILCA was
43 only to provide for subsistence priorities on Federal lands.
44 The purpose of ANILCA was to provide for subsistence priority
45 on all lands in Alaska and the State was supposed to be in
46 compliance with that rule. The State is out of compliance
47 with that rule and that's why we have a Federal take-over on
48 Federal lands, because the State is out of compliance. I

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think the intent of ANILCA was to provide for a subsistence priority throughout the State of Alaska.

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3 And, also, I don't look at it as opening a can of worms because we're not going to open anything ourselves; we're just making a recommendation that we favor the idea of having Federal rules applied to -- and, particularly in my area, I'm thinking of private lands which are Native lands which are on the corridor of the Yukon River. Most of the land surrounding the Yukon River is now Native-owned land and the Native people that -- and other rural residents that live in that area cannot use subsistence opportunities and subsistence hunting schedules as set out by the subsistence board on those lands because they currently fall under State management practices.

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16 MR. TITUS: Jeff?

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18 MR. ROACH: Two points I'd like to raise here. ANILCA, I mean, specifically says Federal land in ANILCA. I mean, there's nothing to do with any other lands in Alaska other than Federal lands. Item two on the NARC Petition that talks about selected but not yet conveyed lands, the Bureau of Land Management right now is in the process of conveying those lands. If subsistence priority goes into effect on those lands, then I think that's going to slow up the process of lands that have been a long time in the process of being conveyed both to the State of Alaska under the Statehood Constitution and to Native governments and Native individuals under ANCSA. And I don't want to see that process slowed up any more than it already is and I have a feeling that this is going to do that.

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33 MR. TITUS: Any more on discussion? Hearing none, all in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

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36 MR. STARR: Aye.

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38 MR. MILLER: Aye.

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40 MS. PETRUSKA: Aye.

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42 MR. GINNIS: Aye.

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44 MR. FLIRIS: Aye.

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46 MR. MAYO: Aye.

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48 MR. TITUS: Opposed?

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1 MR. ROACH: Nay.

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3 MR. TITUS: The ayes have it.

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5 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman?

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7 MR. TITUS: Yes, Vince?

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9 MR. MATHEWS: As we discussed earlier before we went
on record, yesterday we received a -- the council, excuse me,
received a fax from the Alaska Boreal Forest Council. Would
you like me to summarize their concerns? Thank you. This is
as of October 20, 1994. It's written care of me to get it to
your council. "We are writing to pass on some information
that has recently come to our attention regarding the
possibility of substantially increased logging in the Upper
Tanana Region. The Alaska Boreal Forest Council is a citizens
group that promotes public involvement in the management of
forest resources in Interior Alaska and encourages multi-use
management according to sound ecological and economic
principles." And I'll sometime today try to get you copies of
this letter. "Our first concern is that sustainable forest
practices have yet to be defined in the various subregions of
the Interior. Given the lack of clear understanding of the
biological

resource base and its resilience to human disturbance, we have
great hesitations about certain development scenarios. While
some this letter may seem simply another environmental
effort to block economic activity, we deny that charge and
emphasize that we are encouraging greater public knowledge and
participation. The following information has recently come to
us. While it's not widely known, it is at the same time not
confidential." And then they list some things that I'll try
to summarize here. Okay. "Number one: Copper River Forest
Products Company has recently formed a joint venture between a
Canadian and a former Washington resident. We are told that
they Young made initial contacts with Mr. Hammer...." These
are the representatives of those two organizations, "....and
several other logging concerns to discuss setting up logging
operations in the Tetlin-Tok area. Mr. Hammer began cutting
in Tetlin last winter and along the highway this past summer.
He has also recently begun cutting on Ahtna lands.

Number two: We have learned that personnel from the Copper
River Forest Products Company are exploring the possibilities
of building a 12 million board foot spruce log sawmill in Tok.
Several studies are ongoing to determine the volume of spruce
across land ownership lines. We believe this development, if
allowed to fulfill the potential of mill owners' grandest

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visions, will require timber from State, private, and Federal lands. Three: We have been told that if a mill is established, its existence will change the definition of commercially viable timberlands in the Upper Tanana. A mill, even if operated initially with private land timber alone, may act as an inappropriate level to promote further wide-ranging development across land ownership boundaries. For example, we have been advised that it would put pressure on the State to ante up with timber from State-forested lands. Four: Given the species mix and stand structure of the boreal forest, it is highly unlikely that spruce saw logs will remain the primary target in this development scenario. We have been told that the Tok Utility is considering using hardwoods as a biofuel for the generation of electricity. Once again, if this type of infrastructure is in place, it would be hard to deny access to the fuel supply." Five: Again, they wish to emphasize that "...our concern is not to block economic development; however, the historic record is full of cases where large-scale logging has had severe long-term impacts on wildlife and subsistence values. We believe strongly that before moving ahead with these proposals, the people of the region should be allowed to thoroughly examine their risks and benefits. For example: How much new roading would be required in the region to support increased logging and sawmill operations? What effects will increased access from outside tourists and hunters have on subsistence activities? Six: The Forestry Department at the Tanana Chiefs Conference is the possible originator of the idea of a demonstration Forest Management Agreement, an FMA, in the Upper Tanana area. An FMA is a land tenure contract, typically leased in 20-year or longer increments that gives full land management decision-making rights and responsibilities to the lessee. If the Canadian experience with FMAs offers any lessons, we would caution the people of Upper Tanana to familiarize themselves with the appetite of Japanese pulp and paper companies. Someone may want to contact the Grand Council of Treaty Eight, First Nations in Edmonton, Alberta," and they list the phone number. "Due to time constraints and the nature of the three-day meeting in Tok, we have not been able to make a more comprehensive report. However, we look forward to continuing to provide information that may lead to more comprehensive public discussion of these economic proposals. As per your earlier conversation with Doug Yates of this organization, the Alaska Boreal Forest Council, we request that you make this letter available to all members of the Eastern Interior Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council and any other interested council attendees. Thank you for your attention to these concerns." Signed by Douglas Yates, Janice Dawe, Anthony Whitworth, Louise Silet, and Mary Shields. That's the

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correspondence.

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2 Generally, when I talked to them on the phone, they
 3 wanted to make sure that you were aware of the issue and their
 4 concern as expressed here of the potential impacts on
 5 subsistence activities and subsistence resources.

6

7 MR. TITUS: Yes, Bill?

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9 MR. FLIRIS: Mr. Chairman, is that an action item?

10

11 MR. TITUS: I don't think so.

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13 MR. FLIRIS: Well, then I have a comment to make on
 14 it, though. A lot of people in our area were against Senate
 15 Bill 310 and the reason was not to block economic development
 16 either, but we had a lot of concerns about salmon-spawning
 17 habitat being affected by large-scale logging operations in
 18 the Upper Tanana. And I don't know the full story behind all
 19 of this stuff and I certainly don't want to stand in the way
 20 of people using their resources up here, but I think that's
 21 the thing that the council would have to keep an eye on; that
 22 whatever timber development is done, it doesn't create a
 23 situation where there's a lot of run-off possibly destroying
 24 salmon spawning in the Upper Tanana because we're having a lot
 25 problems with chum salmon returns as it is throughout the
 26 Yukon Drainage. And all of the spawning habitat isn't known
 27 yet. They haven't been all located. So, there's a potential
 28 ruin salmon-spawning areas without even knowing it's
 29 happening. So, that's the concern from down in my area and I
 30 know in Nenana and Minto there's a lot of concern about it,
 31 too.

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33 MR. TITUS: Thank you. Randy?

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35 MR. MAYO: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to just comment on
 36 what Vince just read. You know, my council, too, were opposed
 37 that Senate Bill 310 and, you know, we put in a resolution
 38 at the Tanana Chiefs Conference and it got -- you know, we got
 39 jumped all over in that. You know, the people are really
 40 misinformed. You know, they don't know the whole picture of
 41 large-scale industrialized clearcutting and Tanana Chiefs, I
 42 feel, is a big part of spreading that misinformation, you
 43 know, selling the idea, you know, of jobs and money. You
 44 know, I traveled down to Edmonton, Alberta for this conference
 45 last August and you should see the country down there. When I
 46 went to this meeting, it wasn't just environmentalists; it had
 47 strong local indigenous representation that was, you know,
 48 running the show were interests on the side (ph). So, I'd

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just like to comment that people that are looking at this large-scale, you know, what's being proposed, they should get informed on the full consequences of what's being proposed. You know, it's pretty unsustainable negative development that is not going to profit the local people. It's selling out to multi-national corporations, is what it is. That's just a comment I'd just like to make.

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8 MR. TITUS: Thank you. I know Senate Bill 310 was discussed and I remember in last April sometime we had a teleconference with Tanana Chiefs and all the villages in the Upper Tanana region at the subregional board level. TCC supported Senate Bill 310 because a lot of the villages here in the Upper Tanana were looking into economic development and they felt that it was an opportunity to provide jobs locally and most of it was on their own lands. And they had the authority to designate who was going to do what and they have the authority to designate how much. And so the people in the Upper Tanana supported providing economic development for the people in their communities. Steve?

20

21 MR. GINNIS: My understanding of the Senate Bill 310 was that it didn't pass the legislature. I mean, that was my understanding. I know that Tanana Chiefs did have, I think, a couple of teleconferences on the bill itself. Some commendations were made. Some amendments, I guess, on the bill as it was presented to them. As far as I know, it didn't pass and I'm sure it'll probably come back up in this legislative session that's coming up here in January. But we're way out in Yukon Flats. You know, this doesn't really affect us, but we were actively involved in the teleconferences and I share the concern of some of the people that are concerned about the impact this may have on subsistence lifestyle and the people. I feel the same way that it would have an impact, like Bill said, particularly on the fish. There may be a real impact on that. Thank you.

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37 MR. TITUS: Yes, Bill?

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39 MR. FLIRIS: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, I might add that I -- like I'm not standing opposed to this idea of logging because I don't know enough about it, but I think that one thing that would be necessary in a new bill if they're going to bring it out is additional funding to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to do spawning ground assessment work to find out where the additional spawning grounds may be located and figure out ways to protect those spawning grounds if any logging operations are going to take place. I think that that would be a prerequisite to beginning any logging operations on a

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large scale for the purposes of protecting the salmon.

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2 MR. TITUS: Thank you, Bill.

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4 MR. MAYO: Mr. Chairman, just one other thing, one of
5 the reasons why we opposed it was that, you know, it was said
6 at the Tanana Chiefs Conference that, you know, this concerns
7 the Tanana Valley, State Forest, and that it, you know -- why
8 should we be sticking our nose in another region's business.
9 But, you know, people don't always realize and look at the big
10 picture that everything in the natural world and the manmade
11 world is all tied together, you know. And the reason that we
12 opposed it was that some years a good portion of the fish run
13 goes up the Tanana River, you know, and we fish for a living
14 the that way. And that, you know, if this bill went through
15 the way it was, you know, and roads and clearcuts were
16 developed all over the place, you know, that's just going to
17 push the sportsmen and other users into our own backyards
18 which is already heavily impacted by the Haul Road. You know,
19 that's the reasons why we opposed it.

20

21 MR. TITUS: Any more discussion on the letter received
22 from the....

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24 MR. FLIRIS: Mr. Chairman?

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26 MR. TITUS: Bill?

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28 MR. FLIRIS: I guess this is going to drag out a
29 little bit. The more I think about it, this bill is going to
30 be reintroduced, I know it for sure, you know. I'm not asking
31 for the council to take a position, but I think the council
32 ought to have -- go on record with these concerns, that there
33 are concerns that we would like to see addressed if the bill
34 is reconsidered. Especially the spawning habitat. I feel
35 certain that the people from my area want to see that issue
36 addressed in the legislature and then know that there is going
37 to be some effort to protect the spawning habitat. So, I'm
38 wondering what would be the most appropriate way to do that?

39

40 MR. ROACH: Mr. Chairman?

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42 MR. TITUS: Yes, Jeff?

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44 MR. ROACH: I think we're getting a little bit away
45 from what we have influence on. I mean, we're talking about
46 subsistence on Federal lands, as this council's powers are not
47 influence State legislation, and I think we ought to get
48 back to, you know, what we're discussing and....

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1 MR. TITUS: Thank you, Jeff.

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3 MR. FLIRIS: Mr. Chairman?

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5 MR. TITUS: Moving on to the agenda,....

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7 MR. FLIRIS: Mr. Chairman?

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9 MR. TITUS: Yes.

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11 MR. FLIRIS: I have to disagree with what Jeff just
12 said. Tanana River is a navigable waterway and Tanana River
13 may come under Federal jurisdiction real soon. And I think we
14 do have a right to say something wherever subsistence uses are
15 impacted, whether it's in the State or the Federal venue. We
16 have a right to an opinion and we have a right to get our
17 concerns to either Federal or State agencies.

18
19 MR. TITUS: Did you have comments? Oh, okay. I don't
20 think there's any kind of action that this council needs to
21 take right now. I think we're just in a discussion stage of
22 the letter and the council is just making their concerns
23 known. Just to move on with the agenda, if this item needs to
24 be discussed more, can it be discussed in the next item of the
25 agenda which is Old Business and Council Concerns? I don't
26 know how we'll do this. Just go around the table, I guess.
27 If any of the council members have concerns, they can do so
28 right now. Steve?

29
30 MR. GINNIS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I requested this item
31 mainly because I do have some concerns. I'm newly appointed
32 to this process here and I'm not sure exactly how to present
33 this. But I would like to express some of the concerns
34 regarding the Yukon Flats Refuge. You know, that's the area I
35 come from. We do live out there on the refuge and one of the
36 concerns that -- and these concerns just don't come from me;
37 comes from many of the people that I'm representing here.
38 First of all, I'd like to express our concern regarding the
39 overpopulation of beaver out there. You know, some of these
40 streams that we've had plenty of good whitefish come out of
41 have been dammed up as a result of overpopulation of beaver.
42 And I'd like to have that addressed here in some form. My
43 proposal here would be to allow us to shoot them with a limit
44 of about 50. I think currently the regulation allows us to
45 trap them. You know, the skin doesn't amount to much these
46 days and people don't really go out and trap them. And I
47 would like to propose a regulation here that would allow us to
48 shoot them. I would like to also request that some funding to

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start opening up these dams.

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2 In addition to that, maybe I'm going a little too far
3 in my requests here, but in addition to that I would also
4 request some help in marketing the carcasses. I think there
5 is a market for it and I think if we're allowed to do this, it
6 would help bring back the fish and, you know, try to slow down
7 the growth of the beaver population. The other thing I would
8 like to express a concern about - again, this comes from the
9 people I represent - has to do with moose. On the south --
10 let's see, southwest portion of the refuge, there has been a
11 real decline in moose population and over the years we've
12 tried to address it in several ways. First, one of the things
13 that occurred was some form of a wolf-control program. I'm
14 not sure whatever became of it, but that certainly didn't help
15 rebound the population. We also initiated a permit hunt
16 area for residents only, thinking that that might help, and it
17 doesn't seem to have done much. These things that we've tried
18 hasn't seemed to help rebound the population out there. And
19 so I'd like to have that addressed. You know, why is it that
20 we're still experiencing this decline in the moose population
21 in that portion of the refuge?

22

23 Then, again regarding moose on the eastern portion of
24 the refuge, the northeast and the eastern part of the refuge,
25 the moose population is stable, but it seems like there's a
26 low moose:bull moose ratio, seems to be way off. In other
27 words, there's more cow moose out there than there are bull
28 moose. And my thinking is that the foothills of the refuge
29 where it's not accessible by local people, I think these moose
30 are being shot off before they even come out into the Flats.
31 That's my thinking. And I'd like to have that looked into.
32 The other thing that is a real concern to us out there is --
33 I'm not sure if guiding services is allowable on the refuge,
34 but if it is, I have some very -- I'm very concerned about it
35 because each fall I see a lot of antlers going out and no
36 moose meat. That really concerns me. So, I just would like
37 to propose, as far as that goes, if those activities are going
38 to continue that those folks -- let's see, how would I say
39 this now. That communities located closest to where these
40 kind of activities occur, those be designated as a drop-off
41 point for moose meat so that we can at least get them out --
42 distribute them out to the people that eat this moose meat. I
43 don't know whatever becomes of the moose meat, but certainly I
44 think that's a good idea to have -- designate the closest
45 community as a drop-off point for moose meat.

46 And, basically, those are my concerns and if someone
47 here would help me put this in some sort of motion form or
48 direct me in the right direction to have these addressed, I'd

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appreciate it. Thank you.

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2 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I think before you go to
 motions or actions like that, there is staff here from the
 refuge that may want to discuss the guiding services issue and
 some of the other issues to give you information. You can do
 it either way. You can make a motion and second it and then
 during discussion bring them up. It's whichever you are more
 comfortable with.

9

10 MR. TITUS: Do we have a biologist from the Yukon
 Flats?

12

13 MR. JAMES: Mr. Chairman, there are two of us here
 that can address this.

15

16 MR. TITUS: Oh, okay. Would you raise your right
 hand? (Laughs) Do you swear to tell the truth and nothing
 but the truth?

19 (General laughter)

20

21 MR. DEINES: Mr. Chairman, Board, my name is Fred
 Deines and I'm the Assistant Refuge Manager for the Yukon
 Flats Refuge, and with me is David James, our new Subsistence
 Coordinator, who you all know probably better than me. David,
 you want to start us off with the first one.

26

27 MR. JAMES: Thank you. Mr. Chair and Councilmen.
 Mr. Ginnis, I'm impressed with the list of things that you
 brought before the council here. Let me start. First of all,
 the issue of beaver. Perhaps I'll start by explaining what
 the current process is for dealing with nuisance beaver
 complaints. The way it works currently is that no permit is
 necessary to tear down a beaver dam if a person has -- if a
 beaver dam is in proximity to a fishing site, for instance,
 and it's getting in the way of their fishing success, there's
 nothing to stop you from breaking that dam down in order to
 help the fish run. Also, however, if you want to take those
 beavers either by trapping or shooting, it does require a
 permit from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and this
 is a standard procedure and they do it all the time in some
 portions of the state. But that's the legal process that's in
 effect right now. I might go on to say that there is no, to
 my knowledge, widespread program for taking a more active
 approach to dealing with beavers on the part of an agency. It
 just isn't part of our policy to date. This is an issue, of
 course, that can always be discussed and revisited. But I
 just wanted to make a distinction between what's -- the way
 it's set up now and what people can do when they're out on the

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land.

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2 The marketing issue is something that Fish and Game
 3 and, logically, the refuge would get involved in to the degree
 4 that our regulatory authority is involved. But that sounds to
 5 me like some of that effort and initiative would have to come
 6 from some small business-oriented type group or person or
 7 whatever. But any time an issue like that comes up, of
 8 course, we would be involved to provide whatever kinds of
 9 information and interaction is necessary.

10

11 Steve, those are the things that came to mind. I was
 12 jotting down some quick notes as you brought them up. Is
 13 there something else that you wanted to respond to in terms of
 14 beaver?

15

16 MR. GINNIS: Well, if I understand you correctly, as
 17 far as shooting of beaver, there is a permit system provided
 18 by the State Department of Fish and Game?

19

20 MR. JAMES: For nuisance beaver complaints, yes.

21

22 MR. GINNIS: This is not a nuisance beaver complaint.
 23 I mean, maybe I need to understand what you mean by that.

24

25 MR. JAMES: I was using the language that's commonly
 26 used by the agency when dealing with that issue. It's just --
 27 when they say nuisance beaver they use that to distinguish it
 28 from regular trapping type season issues.

29

30 MR. GINNIS: Oh, okay. Well, what I'm talking about
 31 is an overpopulation of beaver. I'm not talking about
 32 nuisance -- whatever you just referred to it as. I'm talking
 33 about an overpopulation of beaver and I'm requesting a way to
 34 address that, and I think one of the ways to address that is
 35 permit us to shoot them, is what I'm trying to promote
 36 here -- or not promote, but request.

37

38 MR. JAMES: That's entirely appropriate. Just make a
 39 proposal to change a regulation to allow the use of firearms
 40 to take beaver. I'd suggest at the same time, though, that
 41 would also have to go through the State regulatory system. In
 42 fact, if you could get it addressed there, then the Federal
 43 system would probably -- wait a minute, let me back up here.
 44 I'm not sure if we'd have -- no, no, if the State allows you
 45 to do it, then you could take care of the problem that way.

46

47 MR. GINNIS: Okay. Well, I need some clarification on
 48 exactly what is the -- you people's role on this refuge out

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there? You know, is the State responsible for management of the resources out there? Are you folks....

2

3 MR. JAMES: They're responsible for hunting seasons,
4 bag limits and that sort of thing for the beaver in this case.

5

6 MR. GINNIS: Well, I guess I'm bringing my concern to
7 the wrong group of people then.

8

9 MR. JAMES: It's not a waste of time because, for
10 instance, having had a discussion of this at a staff meeting,
11 there is some question, for instance, that the removal of
12 beaver dams could, at some point, cross the line between -- it
13 crossed the line into habitat alteration. Probably addressing
14 beaver dams that interfere with fish runs would not get that
15 far. But we just want to issue some caution: If it comes to
16 a point where it starts to be a significant alteration of
17 waterfowl habitat, for instance, then the refuge is very
18 definitely involved in it. But at the level I think you're
19 talking about, you know, the authority for harvesting the
20 beaver would, first of all, best be addressed to the State
21 system. Typically, what happens if you can't find sufficient
22 satisfaction, then there is the Federal program to try to
23 provide the subsistence priority, but keep in mind that it's a
24 difficult issue because the beaver are in navigable waters for
25 the most part.

26

27 We, the staff here, would be glad to work with the
28 council or you individually to help craft the appropriate
29 proposal and make sure it starts to get funneled into the
30 thought system, through the advisory committee and that sort of
31 thing and make sure it gets into the State. So, we'll provide
32 you support.

33

34 MR. GINNIS: Okay. Thank you. I appreciate it. I
35 guess that's what I'm looking for, is some kind of response
36 like that. The other thing I was mentioning was the moose
37 population. I'm sure you're familiar with the decline in the
38 moose population on the south and the southwest portion of the
39 refuge. And like I had mentioned, we tried to address a way
40 to try to rebound that out there and it doesn't seem to be
41 working. And there are some people here that are sitting on
42 this council that I'm sure can speak to that, also.

43

44 MR. TITUS: What GMU? What GMU?

45

46 MR. JAMES: 25(D) West.

47

48 MR. TITUS: (D) West?

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1 MR. JAMES: (D) West. Mr. Chairman, if I can respond
 2o that. There are two basic issues you'd have there, at
 3east geographically. One is up in the northeast. Speaking
 4n behalf of, primarily, Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, they
 5o share a concern about the status of the moose population in
 6he very upper foothills, Upper Sheenjek, Upper Coleen River,
 7and actually over on the north slope a little bit, also. For
 8that reason, they are initiating a research project next week,
 9weather permitting. They want to do some population identity
 10work which means they want to know where those moose go
 11throughout their life-cycle, annual life-cycle, because we're
 12not really sure, but there's a strong suspicion that they
 13undergo lengthy movements. The hunting pressure there has
 14obviously increased; exactly how much, they're not too sure.
 15But there are some data to indicate that the hunting pressure
 16here has jumped up markedly in the very recent past.

17
 18 The question is what effect does hunting in that one
 19area have on the wider area, for instance, down into the Flats
 20themselves. They are confident that with putting out 60 radio
 21collars in moose in that area that they're going to get some
 22good answers to those questions. There is much more
 23information that is available concerning that research
 24project, but if that addresses the issue sufficiently right
 25now, I won't go into that. But there is a research proposal
 26out that's available. I can even get a copy -- I will get a
 27copy for you, if you'd like.

28
 29 MR. GINNIS: Okay. Well, that's fine, the research,
 30you know. We're one area that's researched to death, I think.
 31But I guess in addition to that, I think maybe a little more
 32visibility of refuge people up in that part of the country
 33would be helpful, particularly during hunting seasons. You
 34know, we seem to see a lot of these folks out there in the
 35flats, but that's not where the problem is. Okay? The
 36problem is further -- the area I just mentioned and I guess
 37I'm asking that you be a little more visible out there during
 38that hunting season rather than out in the Flats, you know,
 39because I think that's where the impact is coming from and I
 40think that, in addition to research, you need to go out there
 41and actually see what's going on there. And, like I said, you
 42know, those areas are accessible by airplane and what becomes
 43is the moose meat and whoever takes them out there, I don't
 44know who takes them out there, but what I'm concerned about is
 45the moose meat itself. You know, just antlers coming out of
 46Bert Yukon. Like this year, I saw four coming out of there
 47with two people. Where is all that meat, you know? And
 48that's the concern I have. I don't know, I guess there needs

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to be some enforcement down there or something.

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2 MR. JAMES: Well, the law enforcement in that area is
3 something that I can't address. I don't know what level, how
4 often the patrols are and that sort of thing. There is
5 certainly a presence there by both law enforcement to some
6 degree and also just the regular biological surveys and that
7 sort of thing. So, there is some presence there. The other
8 thing that's important for the most successful law enforcement
9 effort, too, is to have some cooperation. The more
10 cooperation, the better, from local people and when suspicious
11 activities are seen, you know, the law enforcement can't do a
12 darn thing about it if they don't happen to be there. And
13 they appreciate timely calls to let them follow-up and
14 investigate those kinds of things. I'll be sure and pass
15 along your concern to the refuge itself.

16

17 MR. DEINES: And the refuge does have a 1-800 number
18 that if you see some activity like that going on, please call
19. We have three officers on staff as collateral duties, you
20 know, part-time officers, and if they're flying through
21 Fairbanks, we will visit with the people when they come off
22 and stop in Fairbanks and find out what's going on. And the
23 number is 1-800-531-0676. And, Steve, for additional
24 information along those lines, with those three part-time
25 officers on staff, we do patrol during the hunting season.
26 This year we were up on the eastern end around the area of
27 Stevens Village with a boat law enforcement effort. We also
28 have refuge aircraft and we have -- one of our officers is the
29 refuge pilot and he does aerial law enforcement effort during
30 the season, also. But with a limited budget of \$3,000 and
31 part-time officers, we are obviously stretched to try and
32 cover an area as large as the Yukon Flats. Anything that you
33 can do in terms of us -- advising us of problems would be most
34 helpful. If you see a problem, we want to know about it. And
35 you believe there's a serious problem of wanton waste,
36 perhaps we need to sit down and talk about it in more detail
37 a meeting just to address that subject and see where you
38 believe it's occurring and where we might be able to fit in to
39 solve that problem if it does, indeed, exist. Because wanton
40 waste is against the law and we don't want it on our refuge
41 any more than you do.

42

43 MR. GINNIS: And then the other issue I brought out
44 was designating the nearest village as a drop-off point.

45

46 MR. DEINES: That's a possible -- that may be possible
47 to do. I guess I'd like to talk with you a little bit more
48 about that. We currently have two guides that are authorized

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to operate on the refuge under a special use permit and I believe there are four air-taxi operators. The two guides this year -- the previous year, the one guide was not authorized. He just got his permit this year and he has harvested two black bear this season. The other guide harvested -- the report from last year, had a harvest of three moose, two grizzly bears and one black bear. The special use air-taxi operators reported clients that harvested I think about five moose. And if there is additional to that, then we would like to know and we would work with you on that. But it's a requirement of their permit that they have to report the take that's occurring with their operation.

12

13 MR. GINNIS: The only response I have to that, I guess, is that, you know, my understanding of these refuge lands is that subsistence is a priority.

16

17 MR. DEINES: That's true.

18

19 MR. GINNIS: And yet we're allowing these types of activities that have an impact on the subsistence users out there. And I think that if we continue to allow these type of activities on the refuge, certainly it's going to have a real impact on the very people that rely on this resource. And these folks, like I said, are mainly -- it seems to me, are mainly after antlers and not necessarily into the meat. And there are a few that do, I guess, take the meat, but most of them are antler hunters, you know. And that just kind of concerns me that that type of policy would continue on the refuge when we're saying that these things have -- subsistence is a priority. I don't know how to address that, but that really does concern me, and not only me, but I think the rest of the people that live out there.

33

34 MR. DEINES: Well, if that is indeed a serious problem, we definitely want to address that with you. I'm not aware of that being one at this time. It's obviously a topic we should talk more about and get a better understanding of to try and delineate out the problem and come up with a solution for because, like I said earlier, we don't want to see that occurring on our refuge any more than the people that live out there do. And if there's a problem, let's get after it and try and solve it, and one way we can do that is by working together and utilizing that 800-number and also utilizing our collateral and duty officers as best we can to try and address that problem. In terms of the low numbers of moose in 25(D) West, at this time, there's not a documented problem that would say that we should not have sport hunting -- or have sport hunting removed. It was removed from 25(D) West to try

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and solve a problem over on the western side of the refuge and, as you mentioned earlier in your discussion of that area, it didn't solve the problem. And we share your concerns with the low population of moose on that side and, because of that, have proposed a study proposal, a moose ecology study, to try and find out why the moose are not recovering and what we're looking at it collaring cows and calves to get an idea of what the reproduction rate is and what the predation rate is to figure out why this recruitment is not occurring in the population and why the population is not going up when we have such low numbers there. Yes?

11

12 MR. STARR: That is my concern, too, for the impact we have on hunters down on the Yukon River. For instance, up the Nowitna River, and that's a refuge, one year there were two boys from Tanana, they were working for Fish and Game and they counted 200 boats went in there at the mouth. Out of that 200 boats, 150 moose came out of there, that one river. And now they're not hitting Nowitna so hard, but now they're hitting the Koyukuk River, the boats that's coming down the Yukon River. It's just that one river, 200 boats. Just think how many boats are going by there by Tanana. And that was in the paper last year where the biggest antlers came was from the Koyukuk River from a guy from Oklahoma, the State of Oklahoma. And the people up there was really concerned. They were talking to the State about that waste, wanton waste, and they never got a response. So, it's -- so that's a big issue with us down here, is that wanton waste, too.

28

29 MR. GINNIS: Mr. Chairman, I don't want to be taking up everybody's time here. I just wanted to express these concerns and at least put them on the record. Hopefully, we can address some of these things working with these folks here. With that, I'll just close. Thank you.

34

35 MR. TITUS: Vince?

36

37 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I just need clarification from Steve. Then, you're going to later or are you now estimating a proposal on beaver? I just need to make sure that I'm tracking you correctly.

41

42 MR. GINNIS: What was that word you just used? Int-
43..

44

45 MR. MATHEWS: Well, you mentioned that you wanted maybe a proposal shooting them with a limit 50 beaver or something to that effect. I don't want to lose track of....

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MR. GINNIS: Right. That's what I'm suggesting, I guess. You need to help me in -- how do I do that?

MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, it might be best, if the council agrees with that, we've got enough staff here to maybe during a break give Mr. Ginnis some suggestions on that. Otherwise, I think it may take -- unless the council wants to, it may take some discussion time on the record.

MR. TITUS: Maybe during a break the staff can get together with Steve and come up with a proposal to introduce to the council sometime this afternoon?

MR. JAMES: (Nods head)

MR. ROACH: Mr. Chairman, we do have a proposal time, we'll be able to look at that again in New Business under item (H).

MR. GINNIS: Okay. I appreciate it. Thank you.

MR. TITUS: Yes, Jeff?

MR. ROACH: Mr. Chairman, I see that this is probably the best time to address a concern that I have, and we've talked about it briefly in the past and the Fortymile Caribou Herd Cooperative Agreement is being developed at this time by a working team. I would like this council to support cooperative agreements between landowners addressing populations of migratory species when they come to this council or if we get information from the Federal Subsistence Board that cooperative agreements are being developed.

MR. TITUS: Okay. Randy?

MR. MAYO: We're on Council Concerns right now?

MR. TITUS: Council Concerns, yeah.

MR. MAYO: Well, up in my area, you know, my concerns are, you know, in talking to Fred, and Ted Huer, the managers of the refuge, you know, I think they know what my concerns are, you know. But just to state my concerns, you know, co-management is -- you know, I'll find in the Native-American Fish and Wildlife policy and to incorporate traditional knowledge and wisdom, you know, in some of these laws, you know, to work in partnership and, you know, some of the concerns like law enforcement and stuff like that to work in partnership with the agencies since they're stretched so thin.

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You know, like right now, we can contract our own programs and one of the things we're looking to contract is tribal rights protection which I understand is to -- you know, you can get your own person to patrol your own private lands there and that would -- you know, we wouldn't have to depend on like two law enforcement officers like for the size of Texas. And so, you know, enhance our local economy, break this dependence on, you know, outside agencies. You know, not to break away from them, but to, you know, work in partnership. What I'm talking about is more local control here. And, you know, I talked to Fred and them quite a bit so they know what I'm talking about. And one problem area we have is the Dall River situation. You know, all this dual management, like the State has management over that navigable waterway, but, you know, so they have management over the fish in that water. Well, what's -- you know, what's the use of a wildlife refuge if they're not going to include fish in there, too? Those are some of my concerns there and stuff that, you know, I'm trying to work on, some of those issues.

19

20 MR. TITUS: Bill?

21

22 MR. FLIRIS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I guess my concerns are that even with doing this exercise that we did yesterday with customary and traditional determination, I'm feeling frustrated because I don't feel like we're really affecting things in the here and now; we're just affecting things when it gets to a situation where the game populations are reduced to a level that there's no sport hunting allowed and then finally subsistence priorities take effect. Now, I don't feel that that's really satisfactory from the point of view of the users in my areas. They want a subsistence priority that works in the here and now on Federal land. And I guess the direction that I drift in is towards wanting to have a recommendation from this council to have subsistence be a priority use on all Federal lands and be the only use on Federal lands. Not just the Park Lands, but all of the Federal lands that are used by rural residents. Otherwise, I feel like we're just putting in place another system that doesn't address the immediate needs of people. It just basically puts subsistence as a backdoor use where you can have subsistence when everything else is gone. And subsistence is going on anyway; in my area it certainly is. But it's unrecognized by the State, never has been recognized. The State doesn't really have good harvest numbers and never will have good harvest numbers because they don't recognize the lifestyle.

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48 So, I was looking at the process and what it's doing

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here and how much disinterest there is, in a way, because I think people realize it's not going to make any difference in their everyday lives. And I could see if the process comes out to our area, we might get the same kind of response because people are thinking, well, it's just a bunch more facts and figures and tables and graphs, but it isn't going to affect where I can hunt moose and when I can hunt moose, or fish or hunt caribou or anything else. It's just putting things off.

9
10 So, I'm not going to make any motions to that effect, but I just wanted to state my opinion, and I'm interested to hear if any other council members have opinions along those lines.

14
15 MR. TITUS: Thank you, Bill. Since we're at Council Concerns, the statements that I'm going to make right now are not going to be statements I'm going to be making as a council member. The statements I'm going to be making now are my own personal feelings.

20
21 Through the years, the Native people have always cried out to different agencies to protect their lifestyles, their culture. And in doing so, we come up with all different kinds of papers, different kinds of regulations, rules and regulations. But when it gets back home to our elders, to our community, it wasn't really what we asked for. I know this C&T determinations for the Upper Tanana, it's -- you start reading the books, you start looking at staff recommendations, staff reports and all this stuff. It's all coming from outside the area. All this information is coming from outside the area, and none of the information is coming from my home. Nobody knows what I do and I don't care if they do or not.

33
34 If we're going to make a determination, you know, you get into customary and traditional. What does that mean to you? Are we going to take a traditional approach to the meaning of customary and traditional or a watered down contemporary approach to a C&T? How far are we going to determine C&T? Since Statehood? Since the first contact with Western society? Or are we going to look further than that? These are my concerns. Subsistence is a strong issue because it has to deal with me and it has to deal with my children, not only now but forever. There's other concerns that I have, but I'll just bring them up later on in the agenda. But I just wanted to make what I just said on the record. Thank you.

47
48 MR. GINNIS: Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to respond to
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Bill's concern there that he expressed. There is a concern I have about the C&T process. At least for our area, the way the process has worked for this region might work, but for the Yukon Flats, looking at this process or this schedule or whatever you want to refer to it as, to me there is one step missing here and I just wanted to note that. And it is a concern of mine because that seems to me that, initially, visits were made to the villages to gather some information, but then it seemed to me that it just -- after gathering that information, it came before this council. And, you know, I don't object to the idea of it coming before this council; I think that's a good step, but I think there's another step in there I thought should have taken place and that was to take that information back to the village again just to ensure that what information they have in here and what conclusions they came up with were accurate, and then bring it back to us. I think that we just short-cut the system somewhere. And at least for the Yukon Flats and if you go out there and meet the people and ask them how they would like to have this process done, I think that would be one of the things that they would request, is initially go out and get the information, come back and make sure it's accurate, and then take it wherever the next step is and probably it's here. So, I just wanted to make that comment. Thank you.

24

25 MR. TITUS: Thank you, Steve. Selina? Do you have any concerns?

27

28 MS. PETRUSKA: I share the same concerns that Steve and Randy have since I come from the Yukon Flats.

30

31 MR. TITUS: Okay.

32

33 MS. PETRUSKA: That's all I have.

34

35 MR. TITUS: Chuck?

36

37 MR. MILLER: I'd like to say that I support Lee in his -- what he was just saying about the C&T, that it's something that's going to affect us for a long, long time here. And we've been managing it ourselves for years and, basically, no matter what everybody says here, we'll keep doing the same thing we've been doing and that's eating, you know, feeding our families. That's all I've got to say.

44

45 MR. TITUS: Thank you, Chuck. John?

46

47 MR. STARR: I've got the same concerns, too. Like I said in my first statement that our villages was put there

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from time immemorial because it was access to the food from the land and that was my grandfather's generation, my dad's generation, my generation, and it's going to be there for the next -- our generation, our kids' generation and their grandchildren's generation. So that's -- we're going to live there. All this time when the people that's making decisions for us, they're not going to live there. Soon as their jobs are over, then they leave, but us, we'll be living there for the next thousand years. So, the impact we have -- we're talking about our concerns; they'll be there forever for us.

10

11 MR. TITUS: Thank you, John. Vince?

12

13 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I need clarification that -- does Mr. Fliris want any follow-up information to his concern about or expressed concern about it just having subsistence be the only use on refuges or -- I don't want to bring the meeting down, but I need direction to see if you want....

19

20 MR. FLIRIS: I was just interested in the other council members' point of view and I just wanted to express that as it's sort of a matter of frustration with me that, you know, I think the process is really stuck in glue here. We're really moving slow to change people's lives and I personally feel that subsistence use should be the only use on Federal lands in Alaska.

27

28 MR. MATHEWS: If I could make a suggestion, then, maybe the council member then should meet with one of the refuge staff on that to discuss the purposes of the refuge and the interconnections within Title 8 addressing your concern. I don't want to put you off; I just want you to become educated as to the purposes for the refuges as they were established. Thank you.

35

36 MR. TITUS: Any more? Anybody from the public have any comments at this time? (Pause) At this time, we'll take a 15-minute break.

39

40 (Off record)

41 (On record)

42

43 MR. TITUS: We're going to come back to order. Next item on the agenda is New Business. We're going to have agency reports from the Federal and State agencies. The first one we're going to do is the National Park Service, Mentasta Caribou Management Plan. Please state your name.

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MR. WELLS: My name is Jay Wells, and I'm chief ranger of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park, and to my right is Bill Route who is a resource management specialist with a specialty in wildlife biology. And we'll be here to give some -- an overview and answer any questions if you have them.

I think first off I'd like to start out and suggest that maybe, based on some of the confusion yesterday, we got off on the issue of National Park Service eligibility when we're talking about the customary and traditional use determinations. And I thought it might be useful, if you would like, if I could give you a brief overview of what the NPS, National Park Service, eligibility requirements are and what gets into resident zone things and things like that. Let me just say that I deal with a lot of these ANILCA issues and subsistence just about every day. I get paid to do it, unlike you folks, and there isn't a day goes by where I don't get confused by some of these things. It's incredibly difficult and some complex issues to wade through, so I can understand some of the frustration in not seeing how these things fit together. And I think our job, as agency managers, is to help you understand how that goes and I put a lot of effort -- I know Bill and the rest of our staff put a lot of effort into talking with people, our local constituents and people that use the parks, to try and explain those in simple terms that we can understand. There are also things that we don't understand very well ourselves and we struggle through those, so sometimes you'll have to bear with us, as well.

So, Mr. Chairman, would you like me to give a brief overview of the eligibility?

MR. TITUS: Sure.

MR. WELLS: I think one of the most important points about ANILCA and something that I keep coming back to, we all know, is that in parks you're tended to treat National Park areas a little differently than some of the other Federal lands. And most of you have probably been in a park in the Lower 48 and hunting of any kind generally is not allowed in those National Parks, but Congress recognized that there are people here in Alaska that not only do they live in or near those parks, but they had a very important and direct dependence on the resources, subsistence resources in those parks and they didn't want that to be interrupted. And so they made some provisions and allowances for National Parks that don't generally occur in the Lower 48. They allowed for subsistence uses -- the continued opportunity for those subsistence uses by people that were using those resources at

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the time of ANILCA. And that's basically the crux of the management issue for us. We try and make sure that we continue to provide that opportunity and protect that opportunity, amongst other competing consumptive uses so that local rural residents can continue to engage in subsistence activities.

6

7 Some of the other differences in parks as opposed to
8 other Federal lands is you all know that there's a rural
9 requirement for Federal subsistence. Well, for parks, there's
10 also a local requirement and a lot of eligibility concerns
11 center around what's "local" to a park? I mean how do we
12 determine who is local and who isn't? So, there's also
13 another very significant difference with parks and that is
14 that in National Parks, aircraft access for subsistence was
15 not allowed. That has a pretty significant impact, I think,
16 Wrangells and Congress talked about that a lot in their
17 legislative history and we don't need to go into that now, but
18 that is a fairly significant difference.

19

20 So, let me just delve into the eligibility concerns
21 and then I'll -- a little bit later, I'll talk about the
22 Subsistence Resource Commission and the status of that and
23 also I'd like to address the Northway and Tetlin resident zone
24 proposals and I'll get into that in a little bit. And then
25 Bill Route wanted to give you an overview and introduction to
26 project that we've been working on cooperatively with some
27 other agencies on the Mentasta Caribou Management Plan. I
28 think the thing to keep in mind with the work that Janis was
29 doing in the presentation yesterday, the customary and
30 additional use determinations is really a completely separate
31 process than National Park Service eligibility. And when we
32 talk about National Park Service eligibility, we're really
33 talking about trying to define who's local. And Congress,
34 when they talked about eligibility for parks, they did not
35 want to get into an individual permit system. They didn't
36 want a permit society where everybody had to come to the park
37 superintendent or anybody else for that matter and get a
38 permit to go do the thing that they've been doing for hundreds
39 of years. So, they actually discussed the idea of a resident
40 zone concept; that is, it would be kind of a group or
41 community eligibility where you would qualify based on the
42 community in which you lived in. Anyway, they passed a law
43 and left it to the Secretary of Interior to figure out how the
44 Park Service - and this only applies to Park Service lands -
45 how the Park Service was going to implement that eligibility
46 system. I had mentioned it briefly yesterday, we were on a
47 tangent there, but what happened in the beginning of 1980 and
48 culminating in '81, the Park Service wrote regulations about

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how they were going to implement that part of the law which dealt with who could hunt in National Parks or trap in National Parks. And the whole program centered around trying to protect the opportunities for subsistence for those people that were engaged in those activities at the time of the Act. So, Park Service drafted regulations and went out -- I wasn't here then, but I know they came to Tok and other communities, and they proposed at that time, initially, eight communities and these eight communities were supposed to have contained at that time a preponderance of the -- that's the word they used and I don't know what that means. I think it means "a lot." But a preponderance of the people in that community that could show that they or their families had used subsistence resources in that particular park. And I'm not talking about the preserve, but in the park. And if the community did meet that test, then they would be established as a resident zone community. Well, after the public comment in particularly places like Tok and Glennallen, the initial rule when it came out did not include Tok or Glennallen or a number of other communities. But after the comment period, and I believe the numbers are correct that when they came back after the proposed rule, they came back and added ten more communities from the original eight, one of which was Tok and one of which was Glennallen and a number of the other ones farther south. So, in the final rule, we ended up with eighteen resident zone communities from Tok clear down to Yakutat on the Gulf of Alaska.

27

28 MR. TITUS: Jay?

29

30 MR. WELLS: Yeah?

31

32 MR. TITUS: Do you know -- after the proposed rule came out and after you said there was ten new communities added, and you stated that Tok and Glennallen were added, do you know the other eight?

36

37 MR. WELLS: Lee, I can't remember what they are off the top of my head. I think....

39

40 MR. TITUS: Okay.

41

42 MR. WELLS: I could find that out for you, though.

43

44 MR. TITUS: Okay.

45

46 MR. WELLS: So, they added ten communities and I think the reason -- and I don't know for sure because I wasn't here; maybe somebody else here was. But I think the reason that

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communities like Tetlin and Northway and Dot Lake weren't added was because probably nobody was here yelling and screaming or writing letters or whatever. But they did add Ben more. Now, those regulations also said that, well, what about the people that live in between, you know, I mean Tok and Mentasta Village, you know? How about people that live in between there that maybe aren't a member of any one of those communities? And they recognized that they needed to provide some mechanism where those individuals or family could be eligible, too. So, they added in a section that would allow those people to -- that could demonstrate that they personally or their family had used park resources without aircraft access. And they provided a mechanism and we call it a subsistence eligibility permit and I don't want to lay down a bunch of bureaucratic stuff on you, but you'll hear the term "1344." That comes from the regulation. 1344 permit, that's what that is. All it is is a finding on the part of the Park Service that that family had traditionally used or had -- actually had engaged in or had a pattern of use of subsistence resources within the park. That doesn't mean in general, but that they had used park resources. And, for example, Lee, you have a -- being in Northway, you have an eligibility permit or your family does, and Frank Entsminger, who testified yesterday, and, Chuck, your grandmother does, Doris Charles. And that isn't something that you have to renew every year; that's just a finding that your family or you personally had a customary and traditional use and that standing, if you will, can be passed down through generations as long as that use -- you know, continues. So, anyway, that's it.

29

30 There's two ways of determining local. The primary means, and this was talked about at length, was a group eligibility based on the resident zone eligibility and, accidentally, the people that didn't fit in those communities had the option of coming in and getting an individual permit. That's it. Now, it's important to -- when you actually talk about who can hunt in a park, not only -- I tend to think -- it's hard to explain this, but I use the concept of a couple, doors you've got to pass through. One is you need to meet the Park Service - and this only applies to Park Service - eligibility requirements. You either have a 1344 permit like Lee or you live in the community of Tok like Jeff or one of the seventeen other ones. But you also have to meet the existing C&T requirements, too. So, if you don't meet both of those, you're not going to be able to hunt or trap or use subsistence resources in the park. And there's a lot of confusion there by local people and it's understandable. Particularly in Tok there's been confusion because of the C&T determinations that were originally made by the Board of Game

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and then the Feds adopted them three years ago. That's what we're talking about changing here, at least yesterday. So, anyway, I just wanted to make that point, that you need to meet both of those requirements before you can actually hunt in the park.

5

6 Now, some of the stuff that was talked about yesterday, if Tok, for example, got a positive C&T determination for Unit 12, that may or may not affect -- or excuse me, say Northway which is not a resident zone community, got a C&T determination for positive for Unit 12. It may or may not affect its resident zone status. For example, they may -- the information is very valuable and I think it will play out when we analyze whether Northway should be a resident zone community. But unless that use actually occurred in the park itself, not in the refuge and not on State land or not on preserve land, but it had to have been in the park to meet that significant concentration test for -- to be included as a resident zone. Now, when we add resident zone communities, the regulations also provided a means to add resident zone communities or delete them if the character of those communities changed. And we're currently in a process right now, not very far into it, looking at Northway and Tetlin as to whether or not they should be included as resident zone communities. Now, before I go any farther, are there any questions on the -- either the resident zone concept or the individual/family permit?

27

28 MR. TITUS: You mentioned C&T factors that you guys --
29 that the same eight factors that -- how does the Park
30 Service determine C&T?

31

32 MR. WELLS: On an individual family basis like for
33 your family?

34

35 MR. TITUS: Um-hum (affirmative).

36

37 MR. WELLS: For a permit? We look at some of the same
38 factors, and we're kind of new into this, but what we would
39 look at is -- in fact, we talked to your wife, Lee,....

40

41 MR. TITUS: Um-hum.

42

43 MR. WELLS:because she appeared to have -- her
44 family appeared to have the majority of the use in the park.
45 And we just asked them -- and it's a very painless process; we
46 it on the telephone or we can do it in writing. We
47 actually went to Northway a couple of times to meet with your
48 family. But what we would ask is if -- where your family had

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used park resources and, in your case, it could easily be shown that they used subsistence fish in the Batzulnetas area which is within the park along Nabesna Road and, if I remember, we documented use of caribou and other stuff -- other species. And all we did is we just wanted to be assured that your family or an individual, for that matter, could demonstrate that they used or had an established pattern of use and that -- you know, there's no time limit set. We generally, as a guideline, we looked at -- well, I don't even want to say years, but, you know, at least we looked at a few years. And it would depend on the quality of that use. If you used a number of species and you used them throughout the year and if you weren't using a lot of alternative resources, that would make it very clear that you had a pattern of use, subsistence use, in the park.

15

16 The other thing that's important in that eligibility permit is that we could only consider subsistence uses in which you did not use aircraft to access a park. And, in your case and most others, the access was along the Nabesna Road or by motorboat or by road vehicle down one of the roads. And we used some of those same eight factors, but, remember, those eight factors apply to communities and what we're looking at, really, is an individual or a family, and some of the factors apply but not all of them.

25

26 Okay. I guess that's it for eligibility in a nutshell. It's a complicated issue and it's something we struggle with all the time. So, if you ever have any questions, please give us a call and ask us and we'd be glad to sit down and talk about it. One of the things that I also wanted to mention briefly is that Northway-Tetlin proposal. Now, most of you are probably familiar with the Subsistence Resource Commissions and that was one of the things that ANILCA treated parks a little bit different than other Federal areas. They thought that there should be a separate advisory committee that dealt just with subsistence issues within parks and they created what they call Subsistence Resource Commissions and they are composed of nine members, three of which are appointed by the governor, three by the Secretary of Interior, and three appointed by the regional council. And in the case of Wrangell-St. Elias, we have parts of three regions - Eastern Interior, Southeast and Southcentral - within Wrangell-St. Elias National Park.

44

45 So, each one of the regional councils, including yours, makes an appointment to our Subsistence Resource Commission. For those of you that are new on the council, you appointed last year -- or this year actually, or last winter,

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Frank Entsminger. He's a member on our Subsistence Resource Commission from Eastern Interior. And their primary objective or their mission under the law is to advise the park management and the Secretary of Interior and governor on what they think is an appropriate management strategy for managing Subsistence resources on park lands. And their task, really, is to produce and update what we call a hunting plan for the park. And they have similar authority in some ways to the Regional council. They can make direct recommendations to the Secretary of Interior, who is my boss, and they have to go through a few steps. They have to have public meeting and have to have a consultation phase for any recommendation. But they've made a number of recommendations to the Secretary of Interior. One of the ones they recently -- well, they're still in the process of doing, is recommending that the communities of Tetlin and Northway be added as resident zone communities to Wrangell-St. Elias National Park. Actually, they presented that proposal, and I can't remember the year, maybe somebody else can remember, but it was in the mid eighties and suggested that Northway be added as a resident zone community and the Secretary of Interior wrote back and basically said that the Secretary wasn't aware that that community of Northway contained a significant concentration of people that had used park resources in the past.

24

25 I think there's evidence and this C&T work that Janis has done, I think, has uncovered a lot of evidence that would indicate that they have. Now, I think there's a little bit more work that needs to be done to make sure that's true. If 28 is true, if it does contain that significant concentration, then the next step would be for the Park Service to write a rule that would add it as a resident zone community. And this recent proposal, in my case, before I made a recommendation or our regional office would make a recommendation to do that, we asked on the park level that we put in for a research funding 35 to take a look at the existing data and maybe go to Northway and talk to the people there in the village to be assured that that was the case. Now, we've done that two separate years and we haven't received funding for that. We just submitted a Resource Management Plan that has that identified as a project statement and a funding figure attached to that. And I think allot of the work that's been done by Janis and other folks may give us the bulk of that that we need to complete that process. And that would culminate either in a finding that there is not a significant concentration of people in Tetlin and Northway, or there is, and then we would add that as a resident zone community.

47

Now, one other thing I wanted to mention, the Secretary mentioned back in the mid eighties is that we didn't

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have any record of anybody in Northway -- and I want to make that point, is that just because Northway is not a resident zone community does not mean people there that have a customary and traditional use can't hunt or trap in the park. It merely means that they'd have to get that eligibility permit. Now, I understand very well that that isn't sort of the rule, kind of the bush way to get permits. I mean we see that all over Alaska and that's just not people's way, is to call up the superintendent and make an application for a permit, and we recognize that. So, we try and go out of our way to make that easy on people, either just doing it over the phone or actually going out to those communities. The Secretary said in the mid eighties that he didn't have any record of people having permits or wasn't aware that anybody there had used traditionally park resources. So, that kind of took some of the wind out of the sails. But I don't think that's necessarily the case and we're working on that, and it helps having Lee's family now with a permit there that helps justify that use.

19

20 One of the things that came of the -- the last Subsistence Resource Commission was in April and there was one tentatively scheduled for this fall, but I believe that that meeting is not going to happen. I think the next meeting will be in April because a lot of issues that the SRC raised in the last meeting haven't been addressed by either the Secretary of the Interior or, in our case, one of the big issues is the resident zone boundaries, has not been reviewed and a decision has not been made on the part of our regional director, who just retired here last month and we have a brand new one. So, I think we're going to hold off on that meeting until April. One of the things the SRC did and you probably all received letters this spring, is that they wrote a letter to the Chairmen asking them to -- asking your council to cooperate with the SRC and that if you had specific issues that dealt with Wrangell-St. Elias National Park or adjacent lands, to make sure that you felt welcome to contact them and ask for their assistance and advice. And I think just by the fact that Frank Entsminger showed up at every Eastern Interior meeting is indicative of their concern in wanting to be available to help you get the information you need to make good decisions. That was one of the actions from the last meeting.

43

44 Another action was a letter requesting National Park Service support to the Department of Fish and Game in completing an access study that they've been working on. And that -- part of that letter I read yesterday, and I don't want to bring that out again, but they did respond to the

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Subsistence Resource Commission saying that they had assisted the Department by providing access to their files but that there was -- all the funding was obligated. Now, I'm not sure what that means for this year, but we'll probably see in the spring. The other thing was the migratory birds, the waterfowl. The SRC has asked for three years now to somehow find out what the process is for getting a waterfowl season, ducks and geese, in the park. And as I -- you know, I read that letter yesterday, it didn't make a whole lot of sense to me and probably didn't to you. But my understanding is - and maybe somebody from Fish and Wildlife Service can address that here - but is that there isn't a legal authority right now either through the Migratory Bird Treaty Act that would authorize subsistence hunting of ducks and geese in parks. Now, you can still hunt ducks and geese in preserve under sport season, or in a refuge or in BLM land. But in parks, remember that the only hunting that is allowed is Federal subsistence. There is no general hunts in parks. So, it really only affects -- it really only stops people from duck hunting in National Parks.

20

21 Now, it's still not clear to me; I think that they alluded to the fact that maybe it would just take a regulation change, but still the answer is not clear to me what the remedy is. Does it take a change in the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and that treaty with Canada? Does it take a change in the ILCA? Does it merely take a regulatory change? I still don't know the answer to that and, believe me, we've been trying to find that answer out as well. So, we'll keep working on that. But right now, the way it stands is that there is -- technically, there is no legal authorization to harvest ducks and geese in parks for subsistence.

32

33 And the last thing I wanted to mention was the resident zone boundary proposal. Of our eighteen resident zone communities, we have never sort of defined where one community ends and the next one begins, and, frankly, I haven't seen much need to do that over the last few years or the last 13 years; although, that's become a bigger emphasis in the last couple of years. We, the Park Service, made a proposal about two years ago to the -- presented it to the Subsistence Resource Commission since they're a primary advisory body for the park, and asked them what they thought about it. They didn't like it and they generated their own proposal, and they had a meeting with our regional director here this summer and presented that proposal to him. And the attention was for the regional director to analyze that proposal and to get back with the Subsistence Resource Commission and say, hey, we like it or, no, we don't like it

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and here's the reasons why. And so far, that response hasn't come back yet to the Subsistence Resource Commission. We're right now, in the Park Service, doing a kind of general review process data of our subsistence management policies and I think there's an intention to hold off and wait till that review has been done and I think that will be done by the end of this year. So, I suspect that there will be a response to the Subsistence Resource Commission on that boundary proposal by early next year. And that's basically all I had as far as general issues for Wrangell-St. Elias and unless you have specific questions or I can help you in any way, then, we'd like to get into the Mentasta Caribou Management Plan.

12
13 MR. TITUS: Any questions?

14
15 MR. WELLS: No questions? Okay. Thank you.

16
17 MR. ROUTE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Jay mentioned, my name is Bill Route and I'm a wildlife biologist at the park. As many of you may know, and some of you probably don't, we have a small caribou herd which resides -- it calves and summers in the park and it moves off the park in the wintertime. It's the Mentasta caribou herd. It's a small herd which has ranged from about 3,000, 3,500 animals down now to around 800 animals. It's decreased from that high to this low starting around in 1985, 1987, and has taken quite a drastic decline. Due to that decline, harvest was closed down for sport hunters in 1990 and then we continued to have a subsistence harvest in '91 and '92, but that harvest has also been closed the last two years. So, what the Federal Subsistence Board directed us to do was to come together with the other agencies and with our citizen advisory groups and devise a plan that would lay out on paper under what circumstances we would have a harvest again. So, that's what we're trying to do right now, is come together with all the different agencies and you folks and have a harvest plan developed for the herd.

37
38 At this point, what we've done is we've gotten together with the other agencies and we devised what we think is a way to harvest the herd and what we would like to do now is invite you folks to enter in with us and work with us on this management plan. And because of the herd residing south of your region in the summertime and then coming up here in the wintertime, it takes the Southcentral Regional Advisory Council and this council and also our Subsistence Resource Commission and members from the State local advisory commissions to all interact together, and that's quite a large number of people. And rather than try and get everybody

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together, what we thought would be an appropriate way to do would be to have you designate one person from your commission to come to a working group meeting with a member from the Southcentral commission and a member from each of the local advisory committees. So, what we'd like to ask you today is if you would designate one member of your commission to work more closely with us in this plan and probably someone who is from, say, the Northway-Tok area that traditionally would have harvested the Mentasta caribou herd when they migrate up to the Northway area in wintertime. So, briefly, that's what we're coming here to ask you about.

11

12 I can go more in-depth into where we sit with the management plan right now if you would like. (Pause) I know you folks probably get meeting'd out....

15

16 MR. TITUS: Um-hum.

17

18 MR. ROUTE:and there's -- I know the Fortymile caribou herd right now is having a management plan and some of you are interacting in that. So, I know that you want to get involved in these things, but it requires a lot of time. And if you are going to have a difficult time with it, maybe we could work out some other way where we come actually, you know, talk to you one-on-one to let you know where we are with the planning process. That might be workable, too. But it would, I think, help to have people from both sides, both from the fall harvest and from the winter harvest, be able to interact with one another and understand the complexities of the issue. Which is primarily that when the Mentasta caribou herd mixes with the larger Nelchina herd, up here in the wintertime, it can create some problems in terms of how many animals would be harvested in that mixed herd. I think we've worked pretty closely with Fish and Game and I think we have come to some terms on how we can do that and without disrupting harvest up here. But that's what we'd like to lay out with you so that you understand it and realize what we're doing.

38

39 MR. TITUS: I know yesterday statements were made that opportunities to hunt the Nelchina herd were down on the highway somewhere, intermingled between the Mentasta and Nelchina herd. Does it take place before that point or after that point?

44

45 MR. ROUTE: Well, Craig is here and he can probably speak more to it than I can, but in recent times it appears that the Mentastas and the Nelchinas mix somewhat after the Nelchina herd has crossed the highway up around the Indian

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Creek area and further north than that. So, it happens, in my recollection, somewhat after that. Is that right, Craig?

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3 MR. GARDNER: Yes.

4

5 MR. TITUS: Okay.

6

7 MR. ROUTE: So, what Craig usually does, and I think wisely, is to allow a number of Nelchinas to cross the highway first so that he's got a substantial number of Nelchinas in the area so that he knows that there's a substantial number of them first prior to the Mentastas coming in. And then there's a good mix and then he opens the harvest. Does that answer your question, Lee?

14

15 MR. TITUS: Yeah. That still doesn't guarantee a subsistence hunt, though, right?

17

18 MR. ROUTE: In the wintertime?

19

20 MR. TITUS: Yeah.

21

22 MR. ROUTE: I think the refuge, they -- you know, they're concerned and serious about having a subsistence harvest every year and the harvest which occurs on the refuge quite small in comparison to the larger harvest which occurs off refuge lands. And I believe in almost all cases, as long as there are a fairly good number of Nelchinas that cross over into refuge lands, that there can be a subsistence harvest on that herd in the wintertime. It's hard to predict in the future what might happen. There could certainly be a case in which only Mentasta animals end up on the refuge and, in that case with the Mentasta population being as low as they are now, I think there would be a great concern over allowing the harvest to occur. But there's also not a subsistence harvest in the fall. And at some point when the population gets so low, you really can't have a harvest or at least we, as biologists, can't justify allowing a harvest.

38

39 MR. TITUS: Do you know if -- I heard stories that the Nelchina and the Mentasta herd were both one herds that at some point in time way back in -- but, I don't know, the system just kind of like divided them up?

43

44 MR. ROUTE: Well, what's traditionally used as a way to call a herd is where it calves. So, if they calve in a separate locality, we tend to call them an individual herd. And, you're right, there has been some -- some people have said they're a remnant of the Greater Fortymile herd and that

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Chisanas and the Mentastas and, I don't know, the McCrome Plateau herds, some of those herds are all remnants of the Greater Fortymile herd. And there's really no way to know what right now and so I don't know how to answer that question other than that. There's -- we really don't know.

5

6 MR. WELLS: Where do they calve?

7

8 MR. ROUTE: The Mentasta herd does calve separately from the Nelchina, yeah, so in terms of that, we call them separate herds. The Mentasta animals calve along the slopes of Mt. Drum, Mt. Sanford; whereas the Nelchinas calve further to the west over in the Lake Louise area.

13

14 MR. TITUS: Any more questions? Frank, you had a question?

16

17 MR. ENTSMINGER: I was just going to ask Bill where they were planning on having these get-togethers for this management team meeting?

20

21 MR. ROUTE: Well, I thought the most central location, Frank, would be....

23

24 MR. TITUS: Excuse me, just for the record, you want to repeat his question?

26

27 MR. ROUTE: Okay. Frank Entsminger just asked me where we would potentially hold these meetings. And I think it's not a real complex issue; it's certainly not a management plan as complex as the Fortymile. So I'm hoping that it would take one meeting and that we could sit down and lay out a plan that we, as interagency biologists, already feel is a workable solution and lay that out, lay the steps out so that everybody understands it and then get your concerns and comments. I think it could take one day and I was hoping perhaps the Slana Ranger Station, since it's kind of centrally located between Gennallen and here, would be a good location for it. And we would like to have this plan devised and endorsed by the citizen advisory groups so that we can present it to the Board of Game and to the Federal Subsistence Board this spring, if possible. So that would mean -- it would be nice to have these meetings soon.

43

44 MR. TITUS: Yes, Frank?

45

46 MR. ENTSMINGER: Could I come up for just a....

47

48 MR. TITUS: Sure.

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1 MR. ENTSMINGER:you know, just a couple of
2 comments.

3

4 MR. TITUS: Sure.

5

6 MR. ENTSMINGER: Yes. My name is Frank Entsminger.
Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the council. Yeah,
8 I've been asked -- myself, I've been asked to work on the
9 Portymile Caribou Management team and it's, you know, probably
10 a little bit more intense than what Bill's got planned here.
11 But what I wanted -- I guess I'm kind of a person that I like
12 to get really at the crux of the problem without a lot of
13 flills and fanciness and all that sort of thing. And, you
14 know, in my opinion, if agency people want a specific caribou
15 herd to, you know, grow for whatever purpose, for harvest or
16 take pictures or whatever, if man wants to intervene and
17 increase a herd, we're going to have to start talking about
18 taking a few predators at a specific point in time. And
19 this -- teams can get together and they can talk and they can
20 spend hours and hours of back-and-forth and all the different
21 agencies have their own different mandates and this type of
22 thing. But if we're going to seriously talk about increase
23 regulates, we have to talk about taking predators and it
24 really gets to be a rub within some of the different agencies
25 and whatnot. And I know that the Park Service is under a
26 mandate that they have to manage game on more or less a
27 natural scheme of the things, with the natural fluctuations of
28 animals and whatnot. So, you know, right away you're really
29 limited on your options of what you can do to increase animals
30 within a National Park system.

31

32 You know, I'm always open for new ideas and all that
33 type of thing, but, boy, you know, a person is definitely
34 limited on what you can do within the park system. This is
35 kind of the main point I wanted to bring up here and maybe get
36 some of Bill's thoughts on that, if that's appropriate at this
37 time.

38

39 MR. TITUS: Thank you.

40

41 MR. ROUTE: Yeah, Frank, I know your concerns and it
42 does reduce the number of tools that we have to do what you
43 would call traditional wildlife management. Those tools being
44 -- but even under that system, as you know from all of the
45 wolf management issues that have concerned over the years --
46 what have happened over the years, it's even difficult then to
47 use a lot of those tools as they might desire. And it's even
48 more difficult to do that in parks. It's just not appropriate

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under the mandate that we have. So, we don't have predator control certainly as a tool. There is wolf trapping which occurs on the Mentasta Range. Because of access, it obviously is not as high as it could be elsewhere, but there are substantial numbers of wolves that are harvested and that was attested to this last year when, I don't know how many, but it was a pretty good harvest that occurred.

7

8 So, there is harvest of predators and it's -- I think there is a potential for a hunting plan created by the SRC to address issues like that. Potentially, things like relaxing season lengths or something on various predators, given population increases. I don't think that those types of things are impossible as long as they're addressed in such a way that they don't influence populations. That's the main thing that we have to try to get away from and that's the one thing that we're really trying to lay out in this caribou management plan, is how can we harvest a caribou herd and not influence its population, as we're directed to do. But we're also directed to allow for harvest. And that's been a real difficult thing for a lot of people in the Park Service to grapple with and that's what we're grappling with here, and we think we've found a method that we can feel good about doing that. And what we've -- we tried to look back on the past harvest and looked at, well, if we had this strategy in place then, what would have been the harvest? And it seems to be very similar to what was harvested in the past. So, I think I feel good that we can have a strategy which will allow harvests similar to past harvest levels. And given that strategy, that same principle of allowing that harvest to occur, there is a potential we can look at other species in doing it the same way, and there's no reason why that couldn't be predators, also, in my mind. But that's always off after seeing if this is a workable solution.

34

35 MR. ENTSMINGER: Well, I think what you're doing is commendable, you know, because, you know, as a park user, you know, if there -- if it gets to the point where there's no animals left in the park to harvest, it doesn't really, you know, leave a subsistence hunter -- you know, what good is it? So, I think it's commendable that you're at least looking at the situation and are going to try to improve the situation. Thank you. That's kind of just a point I wanted to bring up.

43

44 MR. TITUS: Thank you, Frank.

45

46 MR. ROUTE: I would like for Frank, of course, to be -- we're going to ask a member of the SRC to sit in on this working meeting and Frank may be a logical person to take that

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role. We'll be coming to you for that.

1

2 MR. ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

3

4 MR. FLIRIS: Is there anything further on the Mentasta
Caribou Management Plan?

6

7 MR. ROUTE: Well, I'd like to just again if -- it
doesn't appear that there's anybody who really has the time,
but if there is anybody on this council that would like to sit
in on that one meeting. And, if not, maybe if there's just
someone -- if Lee, as the chairman, would be a contact, we can
either make telephone contact or come up and tell him directly
what has transpired at this meeting. I just want to make sure
that you're aware that we're going to do this and you're
invited to this process because it does -- it could have some
effect on the users in this area when they come up here in the
wintertime.

18

19 MR. FLIRIS: Council members, was there anybody that
wanted to volunteer to sit in on that meeting or any further
comments? Vince?

22

23 MR. MATHEWS: Just to make it clear, I think we would
work out, if there is a reservation on doing that, we would
work out something on travel, covering costs and lodging and
all of that.

27

28 MR. ROUTE: Hopefully, it'd be just a one-day thing
where they could travel down to Slana Ranger Station and it's
possible, depending on whether Craig Gardner or someone from
the refuge staff would also come, that there would be a
vehicle and they could just car-pool.

33

34 MR. FLIRIS: Jeff?

35

36 MR. ROACH: I think because of the location of the
harvest that Lee would be a more logical person, and I'd like
to wait till he gets back to see if he would like to be
involved in that. If not, then I will be willing to attend
the meeting. I'm also working with the Fortymile Caribou
Management Plan and, you know, I don't know if that will have
any effect on the decision by the council.

43

44 MR. FLIRIS: Okay. Well, we'll ask Lee when he gets
back. In the meantime, should we go on? Vince?

46

47 MR. MATHEWS: I'm going to need some direction here.
How much time -- does the council look like it's going to

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adjourn some time today and, if that is so, those that are staying at the Tok Lodge, we have to check out before 12:30. So, I kind of need some direction on that so we can break at an appropriate time to let people get out of the Tok Lodge. I don't want you to change your discussion, but I wanted that noted.

6

7 MR. TITUS: We'll probably adjourn in about a half hour.

9

10 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, we have some heavy-duty stuff coming up here, so I -- a half hour seems pretty optimistic.

13

14 MR. TITUS: That's off the record. (Laughs) Any one -- yes?

16

17 MR. ROACH: Just a comment to what Vince is saying, I would hate to limit our discussion if we get into something a little more heavy later on and I don't want people to be without a room, so I think it's probably better that we continue on and plan on having the individuals spend the night here in Tok, whether we finish up tonight or not. That's just my personal preference.

24

25 MR. FLIRIS: Also, Lee, while you were gone, they were requesting to know if we wanted to have a council member sit on that next Mentasta herd caribou plan and, specifically, he was wondering if you might want to be that person.

29

30 MR. TITUS: Really? Do you have a date set aside for that?

32

33 MR. ROUTE: No, we don't. We're pretty negotiable on that. Basically, at this point, I've only brought this out to the Southcentral and Roy Ewan has said that he would be interested in doing that. And so it hasn't been set up, any date. We would be pretty negotiable. And, as I said, hopefully just one meeting and hopefully down at Slana Ranger Station and, possibly, we would have a vehicle that would, you know, car-pool down to it. And, again as I said before, if we can't get everybody together and if you really are unable to attend or if one of your committee members are unable to attend, we would, you know, make you aware of exactly what was happening. If possible, we could even have a phone call at the time of the meeting to let you know what's going on. But -- so, you know, if one of your members wanted to say, you know, you'll be the primary contact person, that's probably appropriate.

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1 MR. TITUS: Okay. Thank you.
2
3 MR. ROUTE: Is that a "yes"?
4
5 MR. TITUS: Yeah.
6
7 MR. ROUTE: Thank you, Lee.
8
9 MR. TITUS: Any more on the -- you want to make that
10 official?
11
12 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, we still need to know
13 about if the council members are -- they're going to stay then
14 through this evening, then?
15
16 MR. TITUS: I don't know. It seems like we're pretty
17 well ahead on our agenda and I think we're going to be done
18 here before 5:00.
19
20 MR. MATHEWS: I just need a reading from the council
21 members on that because then I need to make appropriate
22 arrangements. That's all.
23
24 MR. TITUS: It's all up to them if they want to travel
25 back to Fairbanks this evening. Yes?
26
27 MR. FLIRIS: Yeah, I'd be willing to travel as long as
28 we don't wind up too late, you know, 10:00. I have to head
29 back myself. The only thing I can think of, looking at the
30 agenda, that I'd like to hear a good discussion about is the
31 Designated Hunter Task Force Report. You know, I don't know
32 how long that might take, but there's some interesting stuff
33 there.
34
35 MR. TITUS: Steve?
36
37 MR. GINNIS: Yes. Mr. Chairman, I'd like to get back
38 to Fairbanks today, too, if -- whenever we adjourn here.
39
40 MS. PETRUSKA: Me, too.
41
42 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. By a show of heads and eyes
43 thinking and et cetera, then, we need to break sometime that's
44 convenient for the people to check out before 12:30, otherwise
45 they'll charge us....
46
47 MR. TITUS: Okay.
48
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MR. MATHEWS:for the day.

1
2 MR. TITUS: Why don't we break in another half hour?
3 That'll give you a half hour to check out.

4
5 MR. GINNIS: Okay.

6
7 MR. MATHEWS: Sure, that's fine. And I'll see if the
8 Ok Lodge will make that 12:30 isn't cast in stone.

9
10 MR. TITUS: All right. Thank you. Any more questions
11 for the Park Service? Hearing none, we'll hear from BLM.
12 Bureau of Land Management. Is there anybody here from BLM?

13
14 MR. HERRIGES: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I'm Jim Herriges.
15 I'm with the Steese-White Mountains District of BLM. I'd
16 start out by saying that our normal representative or contact
17 person to this board is Ruth Gronquist and she wasn't able to
18 make it to this meeting. So, I'm essentially just sitting in
19 and recording what's going on so I can give her feedback and,
20 such, I don't have anything specific to report to the
21 Council. The one thing that I might mention as long as I'm up
22 here in regards to the Fortymile caribou herd and some of our
23 activities is that we did some signing this summer to try and
24 help clarify the -- where BLM and Federal lands are along the
25 highway, and that was just simply a matter of placing a sign
26 alongside the highway that says, "You are entering BLM Public
27 Lands," and another sign that indicated when you were leaving
28 public lands. And so hopefully that will help hunters in
29 making sure that they are hunting on Federal lands in the
30 Fortymile country.

31
32 MR. TITUS: Thank you, Jim. Yes, Steve?

33
34 MR. GINNIS: Mr. Chairman, I was just curious, is
35 (C) in your area that you represent?

36
37 MR. HERRIGES: Twenty-five....

38
39 MR. GINNIS: Yeah, in the....

40
41 MR. HERRIGES: Yeah. The BLM district includes parts
42 25(C), yes.

43
44 MR. GINNIS: I was just curious. I see an agenda item
45 here requesting to adjust the lynx trapping seasons. Do you
46 have any recommendations on that?

47
48 MR. HERRIGES: Yeah, I'm sorry, I don't personally --

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I'm not up to speed on that.

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2 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, on that there is analysis
material and Conrad Guenther will be going through that, but
he may want to comment at that time, also.

5

6 MR. TITUS: Okay. Just to update the new council
members on what we're doing right now, in this book here,
there's a map and there's a breakdown of all the different
regional councils, and we're in Region 9. And within Region
9 you'll see all these different colors. There's the
National Wildlife Refuge, National Park, National Forest, and
BLM, and right now we're just getting reports from these
different agencies within our area. And I'd just like to
inform the new council members of what we're doing right now.
Any more questions for BLM? Thank you, Jim. Fish and
Wildlife Service.

17

18 MR. DEINES: Mr. Chairman, Board, my name is Fred
Deines and I'm with the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge.
We have already discussed several issues of concern on the
Yukon Flats Refuge in dealing with law enforcement and moose
population levels and beaver population levels and so I will
not touch upon those three subjects again unless the board
wishes to. But two items of interest that I would like to
offer some comments on: This last year we had a program where
we had a RAP student for our refuge work with biologists and
the other biotechnicians that we hired, and it was a young
student from Chalkyitsik Village by the name of Eddie Paul and
he was an excellent assistant to us and we look forward to
doing a similar program this next summer. We also had the
opportunity to have Mr. Craig Fleener, an employee of the
Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments, work for us on a
fisheries effort as a volunteer and we hope to also continue
that program again next summer. The refuge is the --
supposedly, the next in line to have the opportunity to
perhaps hire a refuge information technician and we hope that
that funding will come through for us this year.

38

39 Two other items of interest for the board: One would
be a proposal for a wood bison reintroduction on the refuge by
the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The department has
prepared a feasibility study and, as we speak today, there is
a meeting between the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and
the Fish and Wildlife Service to discuss this proposal and
what will happen from here, and decide the public involvement
program that would obviously be necessary before anything like
this could go forward. The proposal appears to have some
merit in terms of the reintroducing of an endangered species

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and diversification of a gene pool, but it also has many questions associated with it in terms of how it might impact existing refuge resources or subsistence harvest or the habitat, and so on. At this time, the refuge's position is one of interest and it remains to be seen where this will go from here. This proposal would require many things before it could come to fruition, not the least of which would be involving all the local residents and the development of a cooperative management plan before any introduction or reintroduction could occur.

10

11 One additional item that I'd like to bring to the attention of the board deals with the Air Force's current plan to expand military operations within a small portion of the refuge. And I think that I would suggest to the board that they need to be aware of this and consider commenting on this and the potential impacts that it may have to subsistence. And if they would like to have additional information on that subject, that they could contact Larry Bright who is the -- works with Ecological Services within Fish and Wildlife Division and discuss that issue with him. I know we have drafted up some comments on that, the details of which I'm not -- I don't remember all of them, but I know that one of our concerns was, indeed, the potential impact of these increased military air operations on subsistence and the wildlife resources.

26

27 MR. TITUS: Yes, Bill?

28

29 MR. FLIRIS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Do you know what part of the refuge they intend to do that in?

31

32 MR. DEINES: It's going to be over in the Black River area by Chalkyitsik Village.

34

35 MR. FLIRIS: Is it just going to be limited to that area or do you know if any areas off the refuge that they also are planning to do it....

38

39 MR. DEINES: It just encompasses the southeast portion of our refuge and then a larger square down from there. The specific boundaries I'm not really familiar with, Bill. I have the map back at the office. I could get that to you without any problem.

44

45 MR. TITUS: Steve?

46

47 MR. GINNIS: Mr. Chairman, the military was just recently conducting hearings on this proposed area and as far

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as Fort Yukon is concerned, we did make some recommendations. You know, they came up with a couple of options of the area that they were proposing to do their aerial war games or whatever they do up there. And I think there was an Alternative A and an Alternative B, and the Alternative B is the one that, at least for Fort Yukon, was supported. That's basically moving it from the northeast area down to the southern part of the refuge and it does encompass a large area. If I had a map here, I could show you where it is, but....

10

11 MR. TITUS: Can you use that one over there?

12

13 MR. GINNIS: Okay. Basically, they're talking about this portion of the refuge up in here and then there was a section in here that was being proposed and what our recommendation was to move it from here down to this area right in here somewhere. But it encompasses this whole area right in here. And the concern that most of our people expressed was just that the impact it would have on subsistence and they assured us that they would -- there's a certain altitude that they would fly. I think it's 3,000 feet or something like that. And I know they've -- I think it's more than 3,000 feet. But, anyway, they've held hearings in Fort Yukon, Chalkyitsik, Arctic Village, Venetie. I'm not sure if they've gone to Beaver. But I know those are the communities that they were going to have these hearings in and I don't know what the results of those hearings were. But as far as Fort Yukon is concerned, we did make our recommendations.

30

31 The other thing is regarding the introduction of bison. This fall we had a meeting with the Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments which is a non-profit organization made up of all those communities out there. And, basically, their recommendation, I believe, was that we're not going to proceed with this idea until such time as there is some kind of a co-management agreement. Basically, a tribally-managed herd. And there are some obvious reasons for that, and I don't really want to get into that, but that's the position that the CATG organization took on this whole idea of reintroducing the bison. And at that particular meeting, there was really some dissatisfaction with publicizing this whole thing in the Daily News-Miner and the way it was printed in the newspaper, it sounded as though we were in agreement with this idea and that it was well on the road of reintroducing this into our area, and that's just absolutely not true. There's much more discussion that needs to take place before the communities out there agree to this idea of

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bringing in bison into the area. And, like you said, there's also concerns regarding what impact it might have on the moose habitat and whatnot.

3

4 MR. DEINES: I didn't mean to suggest that everything was cut and dried at all, Steve. There's many, many more miles to walk on this road for sure. And a public involvement process has really not even been initiated on the proposal. I know the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has talked to various villages at certain times. I know the issue was discussed at the April meeting of -- with CATG and the Service earlier this year, but we know that many of the village people have concerns and we -- you know, that's one thing that needs to be looked at very carefully as far as whether this proposal would ever go forward.

15

16 MR. TITUS: I'd just like to make a comment on -- when you stated that Fort Yukon went with Alternative B to move it to the southern portion, was -- I'm not sure, but from my understanding, that the portion that you asked them to move to the portion that I believe they're already using right now.

21

22 MR. GINNIS: No, I....

23

24 MR. DEINES: I believe you're correct in that they have a temporary MOA right now.

26

27 MR. GINNIS: Yeah.

28

29 MR. DEINES: What they're proposing to do is make this a permanent Military Operations Area and the significance of that is a couple of things: A temporary MOA is just that; it's temporary. It has to be approved every year, the operations within that area have to be approved every year. A permanent MOA, on the other hand, is a permanent and I underline that and they do not have to gain approval for their military operations and they are proposing increasing from the current level of three to six per year. And the significance of that is multifaceted in that if you look a few years back where the Air Force had different types of aircraft, specifically, what is it, 08-10s or something like that, according to our pilot, they are a much different aircraft than the Air Force is using now. The other aircraft were not only quieter, they were the low-level attack aircraft. Now, they have F15s and F16-Es and the difference is night and day in terms of the potential impact. And they're also having military operations that involve British and French aircraft which, again, are a much noisier type of aircraft and the potential impacts of this noise to wildlife is very

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significant, and to subsistence is very significant, much more so than it was a few years back when the number of operations was less and the types of aircraft were different.

3

4 MR. TITUS: Any more questions? Yeah, Randy?

5

6 MR. MAYO: Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to comment to Mr. Deines there. I talked to him earlier about, you know, some of my concerns and I said earlier that he knows my concerns because I talked to him. This co-management, you know, there always seems to be funding problems and one way I thought of kind of coming up with a solution to part of that is to combine tribal funding from the BIA, you know, with Fish and Wildlife funding to get some of these things going. Like, for instance, we're working on a signing project with the Service and it's a joint effort, you know. So, that's an idea to explore right there, you know. A couple of years ago, we wanted to contract a program, a BIA program, Tribal Rights Protection. I don't know what they call it now. But there was hardly no money in that area. My understanding of that program, they might call it Wildlife and Parks now; we can do stuff at the local level to cut this dependency on like two enforcement officers for such a large area, you know. We wouldn't feel like our hands are tied, you know. We'd be helping each other help ourselves. There's a lot of things we need to explore there to make these things realities.

26

27 MR. DEINES: And, as you and I had discussed, Randy, I think that that is, indeed, going to be something that is looked at very closely in the future and what I would term "creative financing" will probably be the means by which it is accomplished and to what degree it is accomplished. Everyone seems to be dealing with limited budgets, but if we can do some cooperative ventures where budgets are combined on a larger scale, that may be a potential solution or opportunity to start some of these programs.

36

37 MR. TITUS: Vince?

38

39 MR. MATHEWS: Two things, Mr. Chairman. I just want to make sure that the council didn't ask me to get information from Mr. Bright concerning this. Is that correct? Or did the council want information?

43

44 MR. TITUS: I think that -- I don't know, is there going to be a follow-up....

46

47 MR. MATHEWS: That's what I'm wondering, if you want me to do some follow-up action to get materials to you

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concerning this issue. I'm not saying you need it -- you want it or not. I need to know....

2

3 MR. DEINES: That was the name of the gentleman for
the Fish and Wildlife Service who is working on the Military
Operations Area, the MOA, and I'm sure he would be glad to
supply you with some information if you would so wish it and
discuss this issue with anyone or all of the board members.

8

9 MR. TITUS: Bill?

10

11 MR. FLIRIS: Mr. Chairman, maybe it would helpful to
have a report. I know at one time they had planned to do low-
level operations down in our area in the Rampart Canyon, and
that was protested and they decided not to. But that was
because a lot of it had to do with the peregrine falcons that
nested in that area. They were endangered at that time and I
think they've been removed from the endangered list now, so
possibly they might want to -- but it sounds to me like they
have another area in mind which is not with -- close to my
area. But maybe it would be a good idea just to get a report
of what they -- those guys fly fast. They cover a lot of area
a short amount of time.

23

24 MR. TITUS: Yeah.

25

26 MR. DEINES: It takes a lot of space for them to turn
around.

28

29 MR. TITUS: Okay. Yeah, I guess some kind of a report
something at the next meeting or something.

31

32 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. So, you want me to get
material....

34

35 MR. TITUS: Yeah.

36

37 MR. MATHEWS:for your next meeting. Okay. The
other thing is, John, I think wanted to hear more about the
young adults that were hired in that program that you
mentioned in the beginning.

41

42 MR. DEINES: Okay. We had a RAP student which is a
program for high school students and it was -- we put the
information out with all the villages that occur on the Yukon
flats and sought applicants for this program. We subsequently
hired the young man, Eddie Paul from Chalkyitsik, and he
worked with us on our Fisheries study. I believe he was on
the Birch Creek Drainage with our refuge manager, Ted Huer,

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and also went out and assisted us on a waterfowl banding project that we had later in the summer on Mallard Lake which is in the -- just off of the Yukon River over in the western half. I believe just slightly north of Beaver Village. Craig Fleener. Mr. Fleener, as I said, was a volunteer for us and he assisted us on the Fisheries project on the Beaver Creek Drainage for a period of approximately two weeks. We enjoyed both of these individuals helping us with our project. They were quite beneficial to us. It seems like many times there is always more that we want to do than we can do and any time we can gain some additional help, especially help that is within the refuge or has knowledge of the refuge, it's a good deal for both sides. Go ahead, Steve.

13

14 MR. GINNIS: Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to ask a question. Is there any research studies or anything that's going to be occurring on the Flats on this refuge?

17

18 MR. DEINES: There was the moose ecology study, the proposal that the Yukon Flats Refuge has put into the process of potential funding for this year. That is a study that would be looking at the moose population over in 25(D) West trying to gain a better understanding of what is happening with the moose there and why the population level is not growing as we think it should since we have such a limited harvest in the area. We would basically be looking at collaring 30 cows this fall and monitoring their movements throughout the winter with aerial over-flights and then the following spring and summer trying to use these 30 cows as indicators for 30 calves to collar to get a handle of what the reproduction is and what the recruitment is into the population and what types of mortality there is and the amount of predation problem that there may be. Then, the calves would be monitored. I believe the proposal is by daily over-flights so that when mortality did occur that we would be able to go in and see what had killed the calf and make some determinations as far as whether we have a wolf problem, a bear problem, whatever.

38

39 MR. GINNIS: Let's see, you know, the CATG, you know, they have a co-management agreement out there to do harvest collection.

42

43 MR. DEINES: Um-hum.

44

45 MR. GINNIS: And I was just curious, is there any plans to have them involved in this study?

47

48 MR. DEINES: The study -- the draft study proposal

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specifically talks about trying to involve the local villages, especially the affected villages of Stevens, Beaver, and Birch Creek and, also, CATG in the capture operations, in the over-flights. It is our intent to try and have -- try and hire some people to do some of these activities. They would be temporary positions at various times of the years. I don't know. We don't have any money yet. You know, we don't have everything fleshed out on it yet.

8
9 MR. GINNIS: Okay. I guess that's what I wanted to hear is having the local people more involved in doing some of this work.

12
13 MR. DEINES: That is definitely our intent, Steve, that we -- if this goes forward, there will be that opportunity both as volunteers and as paid positions, if we have our way on this proposal.

17
18 MR. GINNIS: You have our support, too.

19
20 MR. DEINES: We would welcome your support and, quite frankly, if the board or any of the villages would like to offer that in written form, it would be helpful in trying to enable us to succeed in funding this study because, as I had mentioned to you earlier in discussions the other day, that this is but one study proposal within the region and many others are important to other people for a variety of reasons. And if we are going to compete with these other studies and get funding, we have to show that this is, indeed, a very important project for the people within our region. And we tried to say that within the draft study proposal, but we can only go so far. One letter from you goes a lot farther in many respects.

33
34 MR. TITUS: John?

35
36 MR. STARR: Mr. Chairman. I see the BLM has got quite a bit of land. Are they in this process, too? I can see on the maps the land they've got.

39
40 MR. DEINES: The BLM is not part of this specific study proposal for 25(D) West because it basically deals with lands that are within the Yukon Flats Refuge or owned by the three villages down in the southwest corner of Doyon Native Corporation. But they are aware of what we have been proposing and I almost want to say that they have a similar proposal for some moose studies in the Steese-White Mountains, but....

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MR. HERRIGES: They've got some....

1
2 MR. STARR: I see you got -- why I brought this up, I
3 see in there you've got -- you can see all this yellow.

4
5 MR. DEINES: Um-hum. Um-hum.

6
7 MR. STARR: BLM land.

8
9 MR. TITUS: Randy?

10
11 MR. MAYO: Mr. Chairman, he's talking about wildlife
12 refuge lands. BLM lands are administered under a different
13 agency.

14
15 MR. STARR: That's what I want to find out.

16
17 MR. TITUS: One more question before recess.

18
19 MR. GINNIS: Okay. One more. I was just curious, on
20 these aerial tracking of these caribou -- I mean these cow
21 whose that are going to be collared, when do you expect to be
22 doing that? What time of the year?

23
24 MR. DEINES: For the cows, it would be throughout the
25 winter and, basically, on a weekly -- something around a
26 weekly basis as the weather and light would permit. And then
27 for the calves, I believe that what we had proposed was that
28 was going to be a daily monitoring flight, as weather would
29 permit, so that we would be right there if and when we had
30 mortality and be able to get in and determine the cause of
31 death for the calves. And that would be spring and summer.

32
33 MR. TITUS: Any more questions? Thank you. We're
34 going to recess till 1:00.

35
36 (Off record)
37 (On record)

38
39 MR. TITUS: We're going to come back to order. We
40 were in the Fish and Wildlife Service reports. We heard from
41 the Yukon Flats area and our region. If there's any -- do we
42 have a report from Tetlin?

43
44 MS. MATTHEWS: Sure. A quick one. My name is Sue
45 Matthews and I'm the refuge manager for the Tetlin National
46 Wildlife Refuge. I don't have any special presentation. I
47 just wanted to tell you we're glad to have you here. The
48 Tetlin Refuge is about 50 more miles down the highway, in case

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you want to go in that direction instead of going back to Fairbanks tonight. And, just quickly, the Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge was started in 1980 by the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, so it's not very old. And one of its purposes, it's stated in the ANILCA, is to manage for subsistence use. Almost all of the National Wildlife Refuges in Alaska have that except for the Kenai Refuge. So, we have that as one of our purposes.

8

9 We're also a little different in that one of our other purposes is to provide public information and education and it's because we're located on the Alaska Highway. So, we have a Visitor's Center that's just 10 miles from the border, the Yukon Territory, here. We have about 50,000 people who come through our Visitor's Center each year. I don't know if any of you have been through that. But it's the first Visitor's Center that people coming into Alaska see and so it's real important to set the stage for what is going on in Alaska. The exciting part for me is that we have a seasonal staff at the Visitor's Center who are residents of Northway Village. We also have some volunteers that help us in the summer, but our staff is from Northway Village. And for many Alaskan visitors, they also want to see a Native when they come to Alaska, and so they see Northway residents who have to explain that they're not Eskimos, that they're Indians.

25

26 (General laughter)

27

28 MS. MATTHEWS: And they get very patient with a lot of the visitors who come and say, "You must be an Eskimo," and they say, "No, we're Indians." But we also have a youth program that helps us run our Visitor's Center and campgrounds that are on the Alaska Highway, and those are also young high school kids from Northway Village, as well. Public information is a real important point for me and it's one thing I've been working on a long time for the Fish and Wildlife Service. So, as I've said before, we have two subsistence positions. They're only six-month positions; that's all we could get at this point. But one is Cherie Marunde, our Refuge Information Technician, and she lives and works for the most part in Northway. We've learned so much from Cherie. It's been such a big help. And our other position is a biological technician position and Hank Timm -- you see both of those people out here.

44

45 And so in order to make sure that we get good public involvement especially on something as important as the C&T determinations, we spend an awful lot of time out in the villages and working with local people. We'll continue to do

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that. This regional council is also very important to us, so you will always see somebody from the Tetlin Refuge at your meetings. We hope that you can come back in the summer. If you do, please do, and we'd like to take you out along the Highway. You've heard from us about the C&T process. We also may have some comments about the lynx proposal, but other than that, I have no issues to bring up, unless you would like to ask questions.

8

9 MR. TITUS: Any questions. Thank you, Sue.

10

11 MS. MATTHEWS: Okay.

12

13 MR. TITUS: Next, we'll get a report from Craig Gardner, Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

15

16 MR. GARDNER: Craig Gardner, Alaska Department of Fish and Game. I'm the area biologist in this area.

18

19 MR. TITUS: Do you want to state your name?

20

21 MR. HAYNES: Oh. Terry Haynes, Department of Fish and Game, Subsistence Division.

23

24 MR. GARDNER: Well, Mr. Chair, actually, since I'm just the area biologist, really, for a small portion of the area the council actually is overlooking, I'll probably pretty much leave maybe kind of the local issues up to the -- the questions, you know, if Lee or Chuck or Jeff have -- you know, won't bring the rest of you into it. But the main, I guess, point that I wanted to bring up and I guess is the Fish and Game report, is to remind everybody that the State Board, it also can be used as an avenue to push regulations through. That can, you know, protect subsistence use and also increase opportunity for subsistence use. And, you know, the board meetings are going to meet in November, January, and March this year. There's proposals that could still get put in for the March meeting and that's actually going to be dealing with caribou and moose. And so that's actually a fairly important board meeting to get proposals in. And, also, Steve, for your question on beavers in Unit 25, you can actually petition the board to get that on, you know, for their March meeting.

42

43 MR. GINNIS: Present it here.

44

45 MR. GARDNER: Okay. Yeah, 'cause Unit 18 already has, you know, a way to get beavers that way. And the other thing is maybe just to remind or maybe to explain more about the Portymile Plan. I know you've heard about it about eight

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different times, but I guess where I failed on the first night, I don't think I explained it well enough that the -- Since it came through the Federal Subsistence Board, it's actually going to get presented to you at some point, probably at the -- your end-of-February meeting time. So, you're going to have actually an opportunity to go through it and actually see how it fits, you know, the users that you're representing. But other than that, I'm just here for questions.

8

9 MR. TITUS: Do you have anything, Terry?

10

11 MR. HAYNES: Yeah, I'll just take a couple of minutes. My role with the Department of Fish and Game is to interact with the Federal agencies. I'm one of our two department liaisons with the Federal Subsistence Board. I'm also involved in reviewing a lot of the Federal Land Use Plans and a lot of the issues that have been brought to your attention today, I will take the lead for the subsistence division in reviewing the Air Force MOA plan, for example. I'm participating on the Fortymile Caribou Management planning team. And so our division remains a resource available to you and, you know, some of you have dealt with the staff from the subsistence division before. We're here to provide assistance if you need it and I'm here to answer questions if you have any that I might be able to answer. And, otherwise, I'll be providing information to our staff as appropriate about topics that have come up at this meeting.

27

28 The final thing I'd like to say is I can't emphasize how important your role is as a regional council; that you do have a significant influence on decision-making. This wasn't always the case with the regional council system that used to exist where the councils did not get a lot of technical support from the Department of Fish and Game. There wasn't a real clear plan of action for the councils at that time and I think now you have technical support. The Federal Subsistence Board is very interested in your positions and viewpoints. And I think as time goes on, you'll find that other organizations and agencies will be very interested in what you have to say. So, you spend a lot of time on tough issues and I think you'll find that as time goes on, it'll be -- you'll see some return for your investment.

42

43 MR. TITUS: Thank you. Any questions? Thank you, you guys. I think we already dealt with the Park Service Subsistence Resource Commission of Wrangell-St. Elias? Yes, we did that already. So, I guess we'll hear from the Denali SRC?

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MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, while he's coming up, I just want to make you aware that under Tab 10, the last two pages lays out the appointment process for nominations and I just wanted to make you aware of that because there will be three slots open. As you know, a third of the council is replaced each. So, you may be approached when you go back to your communities as to how this appointment process is done. It's there for your assistance. I just wanted to remind you of that before the meeting proceeds. Thank you.

9
10 MR. TITUS: Appointment for seats on the SRC?

11
12 MR. MATHEWS: No. For this council here.

13
14 MR. TITUS: Oh, okay.

15
16 MR. MATHEWS: It lays out the process for you. So, if you get asked in your community, well, how can I get someone nominated on it, look at the last two pages and that will help you or have them call our office. That's all. Thank you.

20
21 MR. TITUS: Okay. Yes?

22
23 MR. TWITCHELL: Good afternoon. My name is Hollis Twitchell. I'm the Subsistence Coordinator for Denali National Park. I wanted to just update the council on a couple of items that the Denali SRC dealt with this last June. It's the date of our last meeting. One of the things that was discussed at that meeting was a proposal that the SRC had made. I'm not sure exactly how long; a year or so before. And that proposal dealt with allowing subsistence users on the north side of the park in what would be Unit 20(C) to have an alternative period of time in which they could harvest moose. The existing season was September 1st through September 30th. What was trying to be addressed by the SRC were subsistence users who utilized that north side for trapping, primarily. In which case, they would come into the area in the early part of the trapping season in November and very often be in the area right up through January and occasionally into February. What long tenure that they had engaging in trapping, they wanted to have an opportunity to harvest a moose while they're in the area to give them an option of harvesting locally rather than transporting in the moose that they would have harvested in the fall time. Sometimes these individuals would be traveling from as far as Nenana and Tanana and long distances away to come to the area.

46
47 What they asked for was to have an alternative moose hunt in the period from November 15th through December 15th

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for subsistence users in 20(C) within the boundaries of the park or preserve in 20(C). That hunting plan proposal was formulated prior to the establishment of the Federal Regional Council, in which case they took it through the public process input of taking it to the four local Fish and Game advisory councils affected in the area, as well as sending their proposal to Southcentral and the Interior Regional Councils, as well as the subsistence coordinators for the State at that time. They received relatively little input in the comment period and, therefore, they had extended it for another period of time; in which case, we took the proposal directly to the regional councils and made presentations to two of them specifically affected in the area. At that point, they only had one formal comment that was submitted and that was in support of a proposal. At that point, they went ahead and sent the hunting plan recommendation on to the Secretary and to the State and, in course, the Secretary responded to their request and directed the Park Service to do an assessment of whether there was a biological opportunity for this hunt to occur, as well as whether there was a customary and additional period of hunt during that time.

21

22 The park did the assessment for the area and came to the determination that the moose population in that region of the park was indeed stable and it was indeed a healthy population, and it could sustain the slight increase in the harvest expected with the extended season. We also went back to the regulatory history and found that there was, indeed, a 15-year period of time in which a fall/winter hunt was afforded in that region even though it dated back from 1960 to 1975. The park's position was then that we should go ahead and provide this additional new hunting opportunity in the winter with one condition: that the area on the far eastern bank of the area which had a low density of moose, that that area not be opened to this additional hunt. And we proposed that the boundary be made in the Kantishna Hills so that the area that would be open would extend from the Kantishna Hills westward, including park and preserve lands which entailed lands that were primarily used by the individuals and families who were doing the trapping activity.

40

41 In their last meeting, the SRC decided that the Kantishna Hills might be a hard boundary to define and recommended that the boundary used be a drainage, the Toklat River Drainage, which lies just to the east of the Kantishna Hills, and they felt that that would be a much more definable, readily identifiable boundary for users. And the park concurred with that and carried forth in the recommendation to the Federal Subsistence Board this summer in Anchorage. And

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the board approved the additional hunt for Denali in 20(C) from the boundaries of the Toklat River westward. There was one comment expressed by Jeff, as representative of your Council at the meeting, that the SRC should have carried this proposal forth through the Federal Regional Council rather than pursuing it through the avenue they did through the Secretary. And I just wanted to reaffirm to this council that it's not the Denali SRC's intention not to fully use the Regional councils and the local advisory committees for their proposal. Their feeling was that they had had an extended period of public comment for this proposal and had due public process involved with it and, in the interest to try to move it forward, had decided just to go ahead and not run it through a second round of public hearings and reviews through the Federal Regional Council program. And, in the future, that's certainly not the intention. They will work fully with all councils and local advisory committees regarding proposals. So, I hope that would address any concerns that this council might have regarding how this proposal was handled. We have three regional councils associated with Denali. The Western Interior Regional Council has a member who sits on the SRC as well, and the Southcentral Regional Council also has a member who sits on the SRC. And so they're very interested in working within the council program, as well. Do you have any questions on that particular hunt or how it was handled?

26

27 MR. TITUS: I'm trying to -- it seems like there's two avenues to get a proposal passed through the Federal system. One is through the regional council and another way is through the SRC process. Is that true?

31

32 MR. TWITCHELL: It could be. In this situation, the proposal went to the Secretary and the directive from the Secretary was to do the assessment and if these conditions were found, the ability of the population to sustain an additional harvest and that there was a customary and traditional basis for the hunt, then the Secretary directed the Federal Subsistence Board to take action to implement that hunt. So, that was a mechanism in which the Federal Subsistence Board still is the final authority to creating and establishing their regulation for the hunt. But the directive to the board came from the Secretary to act on it if the conditions were met. So, that is a potential alternative that may exist for subsistence resource commissions. Keep in mind that this all occurred prior to the establishment of the Federal Regional Councils and now that they're up and running, it's not the intention of Denali's SRC to pursue that avenue.

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1 MR. TITUS: Yeah. In meeting with the Federal
2 Subsistence Board when it comes to proposals and stuff like
3 that, anyway, they always ask how does the regional council --
4 what's the regional council's position on that? And, you
5 know, if we don't have time to review or make comments to
6 that, we don't really know and a lot of times the -- because
7 of lack of information, the proposals are tabled or they
8 didn't take no action on them.

9
10 MR. TWITCHELL: Um-hum.

11
12 MR. TITUS: Any more questions? Do you have
13 anything....

14
15 MR. TWITCHELL: Yeah. There were two other times that
16 the SRC dealt with. One was the establishment of boundaries
17 for two of the resident zone communities for Denali. Denali
18 has four resident zone communities that being Cantwell, Lake
19 Minchumina, Nicolai, and Telida. Cantwell's resident zone
20 boundaries were established in 1981 and those boundaries were
21 established as a Park Service action which was later then
22 carried to the Subsistence Resource Commission when it became
23 functional. The Subsistence Resource Commission upheld where
24 those boundaries were and felt that they were adequate. So,
25 those boundaries continue to be the same today. In the late
26 eighties, the Subsistence Resource Commission recommended that
27 Lake Minchumina have a boundary established for that
28 particular unit. That was in response to some land disposals
29 in the area, both State and Federal, that was bringing in a
30 lot more users to the community area and they were concerned
31 about the potential effects of that. And so they put forth a
32 recommendation as a hunting plan proposal to establish
33 boundaries around that community, which they did.

34
35 Last summer, I traveled to the villages of Nicolai and
36 Telida and met with the members, all of the members of the
37 village of Telida, which is only 11 so it's not a very large
38 community, and I met with those village council members who
39 were present there and asked them what they would recommend
40 for a boundary for their community. And they recommended an
41 area from the airstrip to the Swift Fork River which would
42 encompass all existing houses and residences of people within
43 that community. So, we carried that proposal back to the SRC
44 and presented to them what the recommendations were. The SRC
45 passed a motion in support of the boundaries being established
46 for that community at that point. I also traveled to the
47 village of Nicolai and met with the village council in
48 Nicolai, as well as the city manager and several of the elders

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in that community, and asked them what they felt would be appropriate for their community. They recommended a radius of a one-mile circle from the airport. Around the area would encompass all of the old existing village housing units in Nicolai as well as the HUD housing areas that were being -- under construction at that time and would, indeed, encompass all the residents of that community. We carried that recommendation back to the SRC and presented it to them and the SRC also concurred that that was an appropriate boundary. So, those recommendations were acted on with a positive motion in the motion.

11

12 The last issue that they dealt with was appointments
13 the Subsistence Commission. As I mentioned, we have three
14 regional councils associated with Denali: Western Interior and
15 Southcentral. When the regions were redrawn, the decision was
16 made that there should be two appointments from Southcentral
17 to Denali SRC; one from Eastern Interior to SRC and none from
18 Western Interior to the SRC. And that was the SRC's
19 recommendation decision because there was a significantly
20 larger concentration of users in the south side of the park
21 and they felt that they needed or wanted more representation
22 from that particular region. So, the charter was changed to
23 appoint two people from Southcentral to the commission and one
24 from Eastern.

25

26 The Western Regional Council was concerned that they
27 would be losing representation on Denali's SRC since they
28 couldn't appoint a member to the commission. One of the
29 things that we went to the Western Regional Advisory Council
30 with was the fact that for a regional council to appoint a
31 member to the Subsistence Resource Commission, that member had
32 to be a subsistence user of the park and we pointed out the
33 fact that the Western Interior Region basically encompasses
34 just the preserve, the far western flank of the preserve, and
35 that there was no one to our knowledge within the villages
36 that traveled across the preserve to actually utilize park
37 lands. And so we questioned whether they could find someone
38 who could meet the subsistence user of the park requirement.
39 And they recognized the fact that they probably had no one in
40 the villages of Nicolai or Telida who could meet that. So,
41 they, indeed, decided to petition the State of Alaska and the
42 Secretary of Interior to ensure that there would be some
43 appointments to Denali SRC from someone within their region to
44 ensure representation. And a letter was sent to the State of
45 Alaska requesting that they consider that in any new
46 appointments. The State of Alaska, indeed, responded to their
47 request and appointed an individual from the village of Telida
48 which, indeed, ensured representation from that region as

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well.

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2 That would conclude the actions that they took at
3 their last meeting. There is one other issue that the
4 chairman of the SRC thought it would be useful for us to bring
5 before this council at this time. And that involved the use
6 of the Kantishna Hills in hunting at the end of the park road
7 that travels into Wonder Lake and terminates at the Kantishna
8 area. Several members on the SRC are concerned about what has
9 happened there this year and I'll try to describe it as
10 briefly as I can while covering all the points. The Kantishna
11 Hills area is an area just outside of the Old Mt. McKinley
12 Park. The Old Mt. McKinley Park, through ANILCA, was not open
13 to subsistence programs, so the Old Mt. McKinley Park is a
14 non-subsistence area. The area....

15

16 MR. TITUS: Excuse me. Can you identify that area on
17 a map? I know the council has a small map of their own. Can
18 you identify what portions of the....

19

20 MR. TWITCHELL: This small map doesn't show the park
21 road very clearly. If you know where to look for it, as you
22 can see, it's in there. If I can move to this map, it might
23 be a little bit more visible. I guess it's not that visible
24 to you at all. It's all of this area right here, almost into
25 the interior of the park. The blue area. It has a 90-mile
26 park road that begins at the entrance of the park, travels
27 through the main part of Old Mt. McKinley Park and goes to
28 Wonder Lake and just about four miles beyond Wonder Lake to
29 the community of Kantishna. The Kantishna area was part of
30 the new ANILCA park additions and subsistence uses are
31 allowed. After the park was established, the Park Service
32 issued about 16 subsistence use permits to people to continue
33 to hunt in that area. Through the eighties up until 1988,
34 there was about six people who continued to hunt in the
35 Kantishna Hills area, after which time they ceased hunting
36 there as a result of a C&T determination that was made that
37 found that these individuals in the area where they lived had
38 C&T for moose. That particular determination caused the
39 subsistence use of hunting in that area for moose to cease.
40 From the period of time of 1988 until 1994, this year,
41 there's been no subsistence hunting in the Kantishna Hills.

42

43 Beginning this year, several individuals from a
44 community farther to the south, Cantwell, which is a resident
45 community, became aware or learned or decided that they
46 were going to travel to the Kantishna Hills to hunt moose this
47 year. The question was -- I don't know if it was in jest or
48 seriousness: Well, how am I going to get the moose out of

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Kantishna when I load it on the shuttle bus system to drive it out from Wonder Lake to the east end? That didn't seem like a very logical course of action. So, the decision was made that subsistence users could come in and get a road pass permit since this section of road is open to -- is under a road restriction and it's not freely driven by users. The decision was made they could get a permit, drive in, and do their hunting and harvest, and drive back out. We notified the community facilities, lodge owners in the Kantishna area, that there would be a resumption of subsistence hunting going on in the Kantishna Hills this summer as a result of that. We didn't have any idea how many people would be coming or where they would be focusing their effort. That caused a great deal of concern by the lodge owners and the press, as they learned that there would be subsistence hunting going on in the area again, and it became rather controversial. Part of the controversy was the fact that the community of Cantwell had not previously hunted in this area at all and it would represent a total new use from a user group in the area. But the greater concern was the concern for public safety.

20 What has happened in the Kantishna Hills area in the last few years since actually mid eighties on was a fairly major growth in use of the area. It has become a destination area for recreational use in the past few years. We have four lodges providing housing and services, as well as a private campground. They put up over 200 people a night in these facilities. And in addition to those lodge facilities, there's numerous people who now utilize the area for camping and other recreational activities. There was a lot of concern expressed since these lodges provided guided horseback trips, guided nature walks, and a whole variety of other recreational activities, recreational gold-mining and panning activities, and scenic over-flights are scheduled in and out of the Kantishna airstrip. So, the concern was in this fairly highly developed corridor where you might have a potential of a subsistence hunt activity going on, where you have a density of recreational users, and the potential confrontation that that might ensue, as well as the fact that there may be some potential danger to visitors since the areas where moose are located are particularly in the river bottoms where the habitat is and that's exactly where the lodges and facilities and the hiking and horsebacking activities are going on.

42

43 Not knowing what to expect, we decided that we would not use any authorities to close the area unless it became obvious that there was some imminent threat to visitors' safety where we had a large number of subsistence hunters engaging in this developed facility corridor. And, fortunately, we didn't have a large number of people turned

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out. We had six individuals come in. They then decided that they would focus their activities just outside of this corridor area and voluntarily did so.

3

4 At this point, the Park Service is still concerned of the potential that could happen in this valley bottom. There are 147 people in the Kantishna area -- excuse me, the Cantwell area, who would be eligible to go in and utilize this area. We have high density and a concentration of uses going on in the valley bottom and we are going to be submitting a recommendation or a proposal to the Federal Subsistence Board through the proposal process asking that there be a closure to subsistence use in this valley bottom which would extend from one mile on either side of the park road from the Kantishna airstrip back to the Old McKinley Park boundary. That represents a distance of about four miles. So, the closure on either side of this park road in the Kantishna area would represent about eight square miles of closure. We recommend that this closure only be implemented during the time that there is a high density of user -- recreational users focused on this valley bottom from the time the lodges are operating from June 1st to September 30th, and that this area remains open to subsistence use all the rest of the year.

23

24 We chose one mile on either side after speaking with the State of Alaska to find out how the park areas are managed in terms of hunting, discharging of firearms, in other park areas for closures. We learned that much of the State areas utilize a half-mile closure on either side of roads and development facilities, trail heads, et cetera. We asked them what was their reasoning for that and, basically, were told that for the most part the State park areas are in timbered habitat, vegetated habitat, in which case a bullet is not likely to travel much more than a half-mile before being stopped by a vegetation or some physical feature, et cetera. In the Kantishna area, the area is predominantly tundra slopes through most all of the hillsides with the only vegetation being right in the valley river bottom corridor where there is aspen and some timber in some stands. It represents a much more open type of environment. And, again, the focus of where moose are are in this valley bottom and that's the same place that we have the high frequency of use with lodge facilities and the guided trips.

43

44 So, I guess at this point, that's just to inform you of the thoughts that are out there. I'm sure you'll see a range of proposals in the proposal booklet that comes up from other entities, whether it's the lodge owners themselves or individual members of the Denali's SRC who have serious

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concerns about this hunt commencing in that area, or whether it's a conservation organization. I can't say. But I suspect that there will probably be a range of proposals before you for consideration on this issue. Again, we are seriously concerned about the potential ramifications of closing off this area to subsistence and, therefore, we would only consider this during the time that there is a public safety concern and that's when people are there in the summer months for the lodge function. We did not want to do a valley-to-valley closure, as was suggested by many people, because we didn't feel it was entirely necessary since this closure is based only on the grounds of visitor safety and there's no biological grounds for closing this. Therefore, we don't want to move any farther out of that facility corridor as necessary just to ensure that those density residential facilitated areas are protected.

16

17 MR. TITUS: Do you have any -- did you get any -- I know in talking with the Wrangell-St. Elias SRC, did you get any permit applications from people other than that's included in the resident zone?

21

22 MR. TWITCHELL: That's correct. We have about 12 people under subsistence use permits now. One from Tanana, three or four from Nenana and the rest along the eastern flank of the park, the McKinley Village area, and then three individuals outside of the resident zone of Cantwell that are subsistence permittees.

28

29 MR. TITUS: So, other than the 147 people that's going to be eligible in Cantwell, you have these other people that's permitted to use the area there?

32

33 MR. TWITCHELL: The C&T determinations in the Federal Regulations says that the communities of Nicolai, Telida, Lake Minchumina, Cantwell are all eligible. Those are our resident zone communities. In addition to that, the particular eligibility includes a number of other villages: Nenana, Tanana, Minto, Manley. I guess I'd have to look at the regulation as well. Keep in mind, those additional communities and villages are not established resident zones for Denali, so they would not be eligible to come into the park, Kantishna Hills area to hunt. It would be restricted by Park Service eligibility to be Nicolai, Telida, Lake Minchumina, Cantwell, and then the other 16 permittees.

45

46 MR. TITUS: But if they showed past traditional uses, they can still apply for a permit, right?

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MR. TWITCHELL: That's correct.

MR. TITUS: Okay.

MR. TWITCHELL: A personal use of the park resources. That's the key. So, I know this is a serious consideration. Any time any agency or person talks about closing an area to subsistence, it should be viewed very carefully. We believe that the situation exists in this particular developed facility corridor and we would not want to expand the closure beyond that particular component.

MR. TITUS: Yeah, the reason I ask is because I heard stories by my grandfather and I know there's a lot of people from Nenana and Minto and Tanana that their families originated from Kantishna River. There used to be a village at the mouth of the Kantishna River, but it no longer exists today. And the majority of this band of Indians that used to live on the Kantishna River are living in Tanana and Minto and Nenana right now. And that was the only reason I asked, you know, if there was an avenue of being eligible.

MR. TWITCHELL: Yes, there is. And any of those individuals who could show that they've had a past utilization of park or preserve lands in the area would, indeed, have standing.

MR. TITUS: Any more questions? Do you have any more?

MR. TWITCHELL: That's all. Thanks.

MR. TITUS: Thank you, Hollis. The next item on the agenda is -- what was....

MR. GINNIS: Under fish.

MR. TITUS: Yeah, Fisheries. Steve Ginnis?

MR. GINNIS: Mr. Chairman, I don't really know why I put this on the agenda, to tell you the truth. I guess I was trying to be a step ahead of somebody else here. I was hoping that there might be somebody here that might be -- that may have a Yukon River Fall Chum Management Plan here. But I guess there's no one here that can provide that information.

You know, I am a member on the Yukon River Drainage Association which is an organization made up of all user groups along the Yukon River and I've been actively involved in this fish issue for obvious reasons. Two years ago, they

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totally shut us off. That really upset me because they shut us down prior to the fish even arriving into our community. This year, they shut us off -- I mean, they didn't shut us off, but they cut us back to a 24-hour -- from seven days a week to one 24-hour period a week and then they found that there was an error in their sonar at the pilot station of the mouth of the Yukon River and then they decided to open it back up again. You know, and basically they said they were sorry. I don't accept that. Like I told those folks, if I were to be responsible for a major resource like that and I made a mistake in that way, I'd probably be out the door. But I know that there is a plan on this Yukon River fish and I was just hoping that there might be somebody here that had that information so that I can have some kind of review prior to whenever they're going to get together to deal with this issue. So, I'll leave it at that.

16

17 MR. TITUS: Yes, Vince?

18

19 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I did contact John Morrison with Fish and Game and then contacted the area Commercial Fisheries biologist. We have a copy of the plan there, if the plan that you're discussing is the Yukon River Drainage Fall Chum Salmon Management Plan.

24

25 MR. GINNIS: Right.

26

27 MR. MATHEWS: Essentially, these plans are a form of proposals that are before the Board of Fisheries. There's two here: Toklat River Fall Chum Salmon Rebuilding Management Plan, the one I just mentioned, Yukon River, and then there's a proposal from someone else that's a Yukon River Subsistence Fall Chum Salmon Management Plan. It's from a private association. Two things that I need to point out which I pointed out earlier in the meeting. The Federal Subsistence Program does not cover navigable waters, does not cover fisheries at this moment. The second thing I need to point out which should not restrict you from taking action, but I need to let you know that, the Board of Fisheries has a three-week deadline prior to when the meeting takes place that discusses these issues. That meeting takes place on November 8th. And if I looked at the calendar correct, we would have had our -- technically, get our comments in by October 20th. The board can accept comments after that, so I would not recommend that -- if you do decide to comment, want to comment, I should say, that you decide not to because of that date. So, it's kind of in your court. The biologist was trying to attend, but we discussed what he could provide and, obviously, you'd probably want the State's position on these

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proposals and they have not come up with their position yet.
So, I don't think Mr. Schultz is here, unless he walked in.

2

3 MR. TITUS: Can I get a copy of that?

4

5 MR. MATHEWS: Sure. There's copies for all council
members if you want, and we do have a representative here from
Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Subsistence
that we could provide as much assistance we know of it. So,
would you like this to all the members?

10

11 MR. TITUS: Oh, sure.

12

13 MR. MATHEWS: It's the ones that are not x'd out.
I've X'd out the ones that do not pertain to subsistence.
(Pause) Also, Mr. Chairman, if you do decide to take action,
I will put it on No. 1 priority when I get back to my office
to get this out and fax it to the Board of Fisheries. So, in
theory, I should be able to get it out if you decide to take
action tomorrow or early Sunday morning.

20

21 MR. TITUS: Okay.

22

23 MR. ROACH: Mr. Chairman?

24

25 MR. TITUS: Yes?

26

27 MR. ROACH: If you had a question about where the
Klat River is located, it's along the Kantishna in the Bear
Mountain Range and the Kantishna flows out of the back
side of Denali National Park.

31

32 MR. TITUS: I remember hearing it, but I just couldn't
place it.

34

35 MR. MATHEWS: And, also, Mr. Chairman, you have a
couple of council members that are -- I believe Bill has been
involved with plans that Commercial Fisheries have done that I
would be more comfortable that, if you do decide to delve into
this, to lean on his expertise of how to look at these. I
have some experience in this area, but not much.

41

42 MR. GINNIS: Mr. Chairman, I guess -- what I was
looking for, I guess, was -- and I don't see it reflected in
this, is their total escapement goals for the whole Yukon
drainage. And I believe last year it was three hundred
and....

47

48 MR. FLIRIS: Three hundred and sixty thousand.

49

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1 MR. GINNIS: Yeah, 360,000 was their escapement goal.
 2 And I was just curious, and this doesn't reflect anywhere on
 3 here, what they're anticipating for this next year. And I
 4 brought that out as an issue at one of our meetings in Huslia.
 5 I felt that maybe we ought to bring that escapement goal
 6 down. And I know it's part of our rebuilding program for the
 7 Yukon River, but I saw that as a very high number, mainly
 8 because I felt that it was a way of rebuilding the stock just
 9 for commercial use. And the upper part of the Yukon where I
 10 come from, we're primarily subsistence users and, you know,
 11 that's why I was trying to address the escapement goals, that
 12 high number that they came up with. But at past -- you know,
 13 testified before the Board of Fisheries on that, also. So,
 14 was just interested in that, but it doesn't reflect anywhere
 15 here.

16

17 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, we may want to ask Fish
 18 and Game to comment on that because if I interpret the
 19 proposal No. 25 which is the Yukon River Fall Chum Plan, it is
 20 proposing that when the projected run size is less than
 21 400,000 chum salmon, the Department shall close commercial,
 22 recreational, personal use and subsistence. It sounds --
 23 without being a Fisheries biologist, that sounds like an
 24 escapement goal that -- no, it doesn't sound like an
 25 escapement goal; it's telling you that it is definitely below
 26 400,000 and you'd have to incorporate it in your subsistence
 27 harvest.

28

29 MR. TITUS: Yes, Bill?

30

31 MR. FLIRIS: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, if I understand
 32 right, at present the escapement goal is 400,000 fish. It
 33 used to be three hundred and -- I believe around 360,000, but
 34 they decided that 400,000 would be a better number for a
 35 rebuilding effort and so that's where they put it at right
 36 now. So, basically, the way they're managing the Fishery now
 37 they need 400,000 fish before there are any other
 38 consumptive uses. And whether that's too high or not is a
 39 matter of argument with them. I mean, the Yukon River
 40 Drainage Fishermen's Association made the same argument that
 41 you did that perhaps a lower escapement goal would be more
 42 appropriate to meet subsistence needs, but the department
 43 didn't want to go along with that idea.

44

45 MR. MATHEWS: Just for the record, it is reflected in
 46 here. I didn't complete the sentence there. Less than
 47 400,000, they would close commercial, recreational, personal
 48 use, and subsistence directed chum salmon fisheries.

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1 MR. GINNIS: Mr. Chairman, I guess I'm not asking for
 2 any special action from this council here on this matter. It
 3 will be brought out, I believe, in November. We will have an
 4 opportunity to comment on this proposed management plan for
 5 the Yukon River. So, I just wanted to see if I could get some
 6 information prior and I guess if this is what it is, I got it.

7

8 MR. TITUS: Any more on the Fisheries? Yes?

9

10 MR. FLIRIS: Mr. Chairman, along the line of
 11 Fisheries, I don't know if this is appropriate or not, but I
 12 have concerns that maybe it would be good for the council
 13 maybe later on in development of proposals -- I was thinking
 14 that we could develop a resolution, at least, about the
 15 problem with factory trawlers in the Bering Sea and the
 16 allowable bycatch of salmon and other species that's going on
 17 out there. Basically, what they're doing is they're trying to
 18 catch pollack, they're dragging on the bottom of the ocean and
 19 they're catching a lot of other species along with the
 20 pollack. And they're allowed to throw overboard a great
 21 portion of that catch because it's not what they're targeting.
 22 It's known that they've been taking large numbers of chum
 23 salmon of Western Alaskan origin, up over 200,000 in one year,
 24 and they take a large number of immature King salmon as well
 25 that are of Western Alaskan origin. And I don't know if
 26 anybody saw the TV show that was on RATNET a few days ago;
 27 they had a pretty good exposé on that. And it's definitely a
 28 wasteful process that's going on out there and the State
 29 doesn't really have any jurisdiction because it's out in the
 30 Bering Sea. But we do have a way to speak directly to the
 31 Federal Government, so I'm interested in putting together a
 32 resolution that would go directly to the Secretary of the
 33 Interior and to the Secretary of Commerce stating opposition
 34 to those kind of wasteful practices in light of the
 35 conservation problems that we have on the Yukon River with
 36 chum salmon and King salmon. And I leave it up to you,
 37 Mr. Chairman, when you'd like to entertain a motion for that.

38

39 MR. TITUS: I think we can do that when we come up for
 40 development of council proposals later on. Yes, Vince?

41

42 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I just consulted with my
 43 team. In the consultation I asked them about if the Federal
 44 Government does have jurisdiction over Fisheries, if the Ninth
 45 Circuit Court and all that works out to that conclusion.
 46 There would be an environmental impact statement process that
 47 would kick in and at that time the council would be approached
 48 about -- through that EIS process for their concerns and

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comments. So, at that time, it would be time to address the -- possibly at that time would be to address the Open Sea Fisheries. You can still do it now. You don't have jurisdiction at this time for that area. The open sea is National Marine Fisheries, so that's the Department of Commerce. Anyway, you have the option to do it now, but there will be a full-blown EIS process before -- at least I'm hoping that's what is going to happen before there would be regulations adopted for Fisheries.

9
10 MR. TITUS: Yeah, we can still voice our concern as a regional council....

12
13 MR. MATHEWS: Yes.

14
15 MR. TITUS:pertaining to this issue.

16
17 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, you can. At this time, you could do that and then we would carry it forward. I'm just giving you an assessment of its potential impact.

20
21 MR. TITUS: All right. Any more on Fisheries? Move on with the agenda, I guess. Where are we at?

23
24 MR. ROACH: Section C, New Business.

25
26 MR. TITUS: Oh, yeah. We're on 809, Cooperative Agreements in the Eastern Interior Region.

28
29 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, that's Tab No. 6 in your book and George Sherrod will be covering that and I believe he's going to limit it to the Cooperative Management Agreements that are directly in your region. This is basically informational for you to -- I think you requested it at one of your last meetings to be informed of the Cooperative Agreements.

36
37 MR. TITUS: It looks like George will be sitting here for the rest of the afternoon.

39
40 MR. SHERROD: Okay. Currently, in terms of the 809 Section, Cooperative Agreements, there are five around the state and the two within this area, of course, is the one with TCC and I believe this is entering into year three of an agreement. This -- the last two years have been involved in harvest monitoring in twelve communities, a report on brown bear which is to be completed on the third year, and a report on funeral and memorial potlatches which, again, is to be completed on the third year. The other agreement in the area

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is the agreement we have with CATG which has involved -- the past year, they've been involved in harvest monitoring. This is a very intensive effort. They're basically harvest-monitoring all harvests of all species and with the salmon crisis, even though they weren't going to document salmon harvests, they started documenting salmon harvests. And that's with ten communities. The current agreement that's in the process of being signed and put into implementation a second year also has a component in which within these ten communities, individuals -- the harvest monitors will start collecting data that is relevant to the C&T process, particularly that type of data that's not normally found in the literature such as transmission of knowledge, sharing networks, preparation, and treatment of game and so on. They are also as an in-kind service, usually when you have a cooperative agreement with the Federal Government, those agencies entering into a cooperative agreement, it's basically anticipated that they will also contribute part of the resources to achieve products. CATG is going to be involved in collecting or issuing a questionnaire to try to identify issues within these communities and issue an assessment study that they can then use to try to seek funding outside of the service or to help us stay on top of potential resource issues in the area.

24

25 The other two agreements we have in place, there's one with AVCP which basically deals with the Kobuk Caribou Management Plan and they're also working on a moose management plan and a brown bear plan. And then the BLM and the National Park Service each have a cooperative agreement with the Copper River Native Association and it's looking -- I haven't been involved heavily with this, but my understanding is they're going back through the oral historic tapes that were collected as part of the 14H-1 Historic Cemetery Sites Process in trying to collect -- lift out of these tapes information related to the eight factors in the C&T process and the documentation of historic harvest patterns and locations. And this will be -- the information will be used in the development of the Copper River C&T study that's ongoing now by the Park Service. And I guess that's sort of the summary of it. If there's questions, I would attempt to answer them.

41

42 MR. TITUS: Bill?

43

44 MR. FLIRIS: Mr. Chairman. Do you happen to know who the person in Tanana is that works with the TCC harvest collection?

47

48 MR. STARR: I know.

49

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1 MR. FLIRIS: Do you know, John?
2
3 MR. STARR: It's Guthrie. Larry.
4
5 MR. FLIRIS: Larry? Um-hum (affirmative). It says
6 here it's the third year of the agreement and....
7
8 MR. STARR: Yeah, but they updated on there, too. My
9 stepson.
10
11 MR. FLIRIS: Um-hum.
12
13 MR. STARR: But he wasn't doing a very good job. He
14 was going out. They didn't get much information from him.
15
16 MR. FLIRIS: Yeah.
17
18 MR. STARR: And so they got Larry and so, I don't
19 know, I think this is his first year. I think that....
20
21 MR. FLIRIS: Is this his first year?
22
23 MR. STARR: Yeah, the applications are down at Native
24 Council for that.
25
26 MR. FLIRIS: John, I was just wondering if maybe we
27 ought to have him come to our advisory meeting and explain how
28 he's going to do the survey.
29
30 MR. STARR: Yeah.
31
32 MR. FLIRIS: In the three years that this has been
33 going on, I've never been contacted.
34
35 MR. STARR: Yeah, that's why they're supposed to go to
36 every household.
37
38 MR. FLIRIS: Yeah.
39
40 MR. STARR: That's what David didn't do, that's why
41 you never heard about it.
42
43 MR. FLIRIS: Right.
44
45 MR. STARR: Did they ever go to your house?
46
47 MR. FLIRIS: No.
48
49
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1 MR. STARR: Then that's it.
2 (General laughter)
3
4 MR. ROACH: Not very effective, then, is it?
5
6 MR. FLIRIS: No.
7
8 MR. STARR: We ought to bring that up to the TCC.
9
10 MR. FLIRIS: Yeah.
11
12 MR. STARR: Get somebody in there that really -- would
13 really do their work.
14
15 MR. FLIRIS: Um-hum.
16
17 MR. STARR: I'll bring that up to them.
18
19 MR. FLIRIS: Thanks, John, that answers my question.
20
21 MR. TITUS: Any more on the Cooperative Agreements?
22 Were you done with the....
23
24 MR. SHERROD: I guess so.
25
26 MR. TITUS: You guys want to take a break now or do
27 you want to deal with the Designated Hunter for a while and
28 then take a break?
29
30 MR. FLIRIS: Let's take a little break.
31
32 MR. ROACH: These chairs are getting a little hard.
33
34 MR. TITUS: Okay. We'll take a short break before we
35 get into the Designated Hunter Report.
36
37 (Off record)
38 (On record)
39
40 MR. TITUS: The next item on the agenda is the report
41 of the Designated Hunter Task Force. Are you going to be
42 doing this one, too?
43
44 MR. SHERROD: Yeah, I'm going to do this one. I guess
45 can start it. The Designated Hunter Report that is in front
46 of you was stimulated by a number of proposals that came in
47 last year from Southeast Alaska and Kodiak Island. As they
48 were originally drafted, these proposals mirrored the State
49
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proxy system requesting a means by which a hunter could take resources for individuals unable to take resources by themselves or for themselves. When the board reviewed these two proposals, they decided that the essence of these were important enough that they should be looked at on a statewide basis; that the proper way to deal with this was not to limit it or to make an action on those two proposals, but to deal with it on a statewide basis. And the board directed the staff to coordinate with the regional councils and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and to try to come up with some method of accommodating this practice by which, as I say, one, a hunter or a harvester will take resources for people beyond his immediate family.

13

14 The task force - and I use this word loosely because
15 was basically a collection of individuals - met, the first
16 meeting I believe was in March, and at that time the decision
17 was made that no option would be dismissed simply because it
18 hadn't been done before, it couldn't be done. If you would, I
19 suppose, flip to pages 62 and 63 of your appendix, it presents
20 the individuals in attendance. The staff considered this
21 matter to be of enough importance that you will see that three
22 of the staff committee representatives of the five actually
23 sat in on this body and two of these staff committee
24 representatives, Tom Boyd and Ken Thompson, actually drafted
25 two of the chapters that wound up in this book. At the first
26 meeting, it was also decided that because of temporal
27 considerations that at least in this first year, that we would
28 focus our attentions on deer - this was the subject of the
29 proposals that had been tabled - moose and caribou. It was
30 also decided that we would limit the scope of the report to
31 four options and these options were identified in that first
32 meeting. And the options included, basically, a -- we have a
33 tribal management option, a local management option, a
34 community harvest option, and a designated hunter option. And
35 there was a fair amount of discussion that these terms
36 basically may not totally reflect what was included in the
37 chapters, but we needed to have a name and a title and go on.
38 Two of the options are not currently available for
39 application under Subpart D and that's the local management
40 option and the tribal management option. As I said before,
41 the task force decided that they would not say no and treated
42 these in at least the preparation, evaluation, and carrying it
43 through the process as being as valid as any of the other
44 options. Currently, these options are being reviewed by the
45 Department of Interior's and the Department of Agriculture's
46 legal bodies to decide which avenue they should be best
47 approached, whether it's directly to the Secretary or whether
48 there's some other avenue, whether they're part of Subpart A.

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They haven't -- they didn't go in to the book and die. They are being forwarded; it's just that they can't be considered for adoption as part of the Subpart D process, methods and means, seasons and bag limits.

4

5 As I say, between the first meeting and the second meeting, these options were fleshed out into draft chapters, then at the second meeting, the chapters were reviewed in a round table type situation with the twenty-some people I believe that was there and a loose consensus was formed where there was strong feelings that all of the concerns weren't represented in the product of the draft chapters. Appendices were included, including one by Vice Chair Sheldon Katchitag and another one by the Department of Fish and Game. The essence of this report and these four options are not intended to provide the sole answer for any one of the problems. One of the things, a recurring theme that happened in the course of the meetings, was, of course, the importance of resource conservation. All members, whether they be staff, ADF&G, or the regional council chairs, felt that maintaining healthy populations was the best way to insure subsistence in the future. The other theme that kept recurring was the importance of flexibility; that no matter what system was developed, it had to be flexible enough to accommodate for changes in resource conditions, changes over time, and so on. And the other was that these regulations that would come would have to be tailored to some degree to conform to local conditions. This last sort of recurring theme and determination ran somewhat contrary to the board's original notion, but I don't think that, in essence, the end product would displease them.

31

32 As I say, the idea of reading through, or as you would read through this report, that it provides a handbook of guidelines; that what the -- I would suggest the council do is adopt the structure and the thoroughness of these reports and look at then combining perhaps components of any or all of these, if they so desire, in association with the primary land managers. That is, again, you do not say I like Report 1 and this is the one we put our stamp on, or Report 2; that, in fact, you can tailor the essence of these in developing a proposal and in a large area like this one, you might actually have different proposals. I can briefly say what happened in the Southeast meeting. I was in attendance there. They decided in a working group to draft a proposal that basically mirrored the Designated Hunter option. The proposal, off the top of my head, basically says an individual can take deer, in this case, for another individual from the same unit; that the individual can hunt for as many designated hunters at one time

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as he wants, but that an individual could not be in possession of more than two bag limits at any one time. This last was put on to ensure that an individual did not actually take more game than he was capable of processing and returning to the rightful holder of the tags. The tags, basically, we're in the process of developing them, but will be sort of like checks in that the individual will take them, endorse them, and turn them over to the hunter to hunt for him.

8

9 There was also a proposal put forth from Yakutat for those to allow the same thing to occur there; that a hunter could hunt on behalf of another hunter for moose. The two bag limit I believe was also imposed in that. They did not move on a moose in Yakutat -- excuse me. Did not move on moose in, I think it is, GMU-1 in which there is a current no determination for C&T for fear that it would open it up and create problems because you couldn't restrict the user group. My understanding - I was not in attendance at the Kodiak meeting - but at the Kodiak meeting, they also passed the Designated Hunter option, worded slightly differently, but basically the essence of the option that's in the report which allows an individual to take deer on behalf of another individual. The one thing different that the Southeast Council opted to do was that they decided that while they could not, as a body, dictate to communities to participate in the community harvest option, that they thought it was an idea that the community should be informed of and have the opportunity to participate in. And they were going to draft a sort of blanket proposal that would be sent out to the various communities, community governments, IRRAs, et cetera, and informing them if they so desired, they could submit this as a proposal in the proposal period and, that depending on the specifications, they would or would not receive support from the regional councils. And I say there's some concern in that area because basically while it was generally considered by the staff committee and by the Southeast Regional Council that a designated hunter option would work in all communities, and that a community harvest option where you actually set aside a number of animals for the community to harvest and you don't care who harvests them, basically, that while that would work for some of the smaller communities and possibly some of the medium-sized communities such as Angoon, that it wouldn't work for the Sitkas. That when you got into communities that were that big, there would simply not be an internal mechanism to report -- to monitor and report the harvest; that that was a level that wouldn't be -- community harvest option would not probably be amenable to those large communities, but that a designated hunter option would be. I guess I would entertain questions, then, if are any.

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1 MR. TITUS: Bill?

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3 MR. FLIRIS: Could you explain why the two -- the
tribal management and the local management couldn't be acted
upon in Subpart D? What was the reason for that?

6

7 MR. SHERROD: Subpart D simply deals with methods,
means, bag limits, and seasons. And because of that, the
transference of management authority cannot occur under a
Subpart D proposal in the same way that changing C&T
determinations which are handled, I believe, in Subpart A
cannot be changed in Subpart D situation. But, I mean, it was
felt by the committee that even though we were dealing -- that
our direction from the board was to deal with a Subpart D
issue, that these other two avenues would accomplish the same
task of allowing someone to harvest for somebody else. So,
the board spent as much or more time -- or the task force
spent as much or more time working on these and drafting these
out with the understanding that they would then be forwarded
out that the proper channel would be identified to forward
them, whether that means that the board takes it up under a
Subpart A movement, whether it be handled under some sort of
agreement or whether it go directly to the Secretary.
Because we've never had anything quite like this, no one knew
exactly what to do with it, but we felt that it was still a
responsible action, to try to get it as far as we could take
it, and then turn it over. And, hopefully, I would think by
the board meeting, we should have some answer as to the status
of these two proposals.

30

31 MR. FLIRIS: So, would it be appropriate for us to
make comments on those plans as well?

33

34 MR. SHERROD: Comments, yes. I would think it'd be
totally appropriate to make comments.

36

37 MR. FLIRIS: But we couldn't adopt one of those plans
for any action?

39

40 MR. SHERROD: You could, I guess, recommend their
adoption and say why, but you'd -- if you would like to get
something on the record, if you'd like to have the designated
hunter type option available for you for the next coming
season, it would have to be handled either under the community
harvest option or the designated hunter option, or some
component of those. And, as I say, in the Southeast and I
believe in the Kodiak case, the council sat down with the land
managers. In this case -- there, it's fairly clear, you've

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got the Forest Service in Southeast and you've got the one Fish and Wildlife Refuge on Kodiak. Here, you've got a few more. But they sat down and they basically worked out the details so that they knew that there weren't any objections, drafted it into a proposal and sent it forward. So, yes, you could endorse those, but if you want something in place, it's going to have to be something different than those that goes forward from this body.

8

9 MR. FLIRIS: Thank you.

10

11 MR. TITUS: Any more questions?

12

13 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman?

14

15 MR. TITUS: Yes?

16

17 MR. MATHEWS: This would be a document that would be wise to keep with your packets of materials because this would be, as it's explained, guidelines that would help you in writing proposals to reflect these needs in the future. So, I would recommend that you do that. You still have the option that George laid out, that you kind of endorse all the options in the report, and then leave it at that.

24

25 MR. TITUS: Yes, Bill?

26

27 MR. FLIRIS: Mr. Chairman. Are there going to be any more task force meetings about this issue or....

29

30 MR. SHERROD: This task force is, basically, I would say dissolved because we had accomplished what we had sought to achieve. I will say that everyone that participated in it, at least that spoke to me, spoke highly. Mr. Titus was there and perhaps could give you some information about the level of exchange. I know that representatives from the Department of Fish and Game thought that it was very productive for them to go through it. The other regional councils -- it provided a nice forum for council presidents or representatives from different parts of the state to look at some of the differences. For example, the Southeast representative who was there, a Tlingit from Angoon, was not particularly favorable of the tribal management option as written and expressed his concerns why in that arena. And there were some other interesting dialogues. So, I think that people left the task force with a feeling that it was a highly productive environment for getting things done. And I think that at least in the Southeast example it wasn't so much what was written in the report; it was the fact that when it came time

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to sit down and draft a proposal, that the people sitting on the different sides of the table knew each other and felt familiar and comfortable with each other and it got done. And in about 30 minutes, they had a proposal knocked out that was then adopted the following day.

5
6 So, I think if there are problems that this group has, I think that the board would definitely be amenable or look favorable to pulling together a task force to deal with it. It was seen, I think, in a positive light. And maybe Lee could shed some of his opinions on that.

11
12 MR. TITUS: Yeah. When I first went down for that meeting, I was like all the rest of the council chairs and I didn't really know where we were going to start. And like George said, it was a really productive meeting after we kind of like got an idea of what we wanted to accomplish. There was a lot of positive and negative things that were said at the meeting, but in general I got a really good feeling after this meeting was over of what has been done. And, like he said, there was people from different areas of the state involved in this process and that was one of the most positive things about it, was the people that were involved in this process. We had a statewide representation, we had the federal representation, and we had the State of Alaska representation in developing this report. Vince?

26
27 MR. MATHEWS: We have kind of an administrative thing that we need to do right now. It appears that the members that rode in the van with me, that we are going to head out tonight for Fairbanks, so we need to take a break here so they can go and check out of their room. And then we can come back to the Designated Hunter or if you're completed with that segment, then pick up the next one upon break.

34
35 MR. TITUS: Yes. Steve?

36
37 MR. GINNIS: Mr. Chairman, I was just curious about this report here. I think it's a good idea, you know, that we have some kind of -- it's similar to this proxy hunt thing that the State has, I think. I guess the question I have is that there are some options being laid out here and I don't know whether we're taking a position on this thing or not. But it seems to me that the affected communities ought to be the ones that are considering which options they think would work best for their communities. I think from the communities that come from, they look at this report -- I'm sure they'll probably support this tribal option in here. But I'm just curious, what are we being asked to do here? Are we -- is

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this just being provided to us as a report?

1

2 MR. SHERROD: I think basically at this stage, this is
3 being provided to you as information. In the case of the two
4 areas of the state that had forwarded proposals last year and
5 they were tabled, they have now submitted new proposals and I
6 think that the direction of the board was to sort of resolve
7 that problem, but to do it in the way that has application
8 statewide. This body did or -- God, I can't remember now --
9 when we started doing the research on this. We had at points
10 in time received proposals asking for the ability to let
11 someone else harvest for another person from virtually every
12 area of the state. Most of them came in in the early nineties
13 during the EIS process when the board was not actually
14 considering regulations. So, at one point in time, and I'm
15 sorry that I can't remember which agency in your area did
16 submit a proposal, it could have been an agency or village
17 requesting something similar to the designated hunter option
18 where, basically, a person has the ability to transfer his
19 permit to someone else to let them harvest on his behalf.

20

21 The difference between the two councils that took
22 positive action on this in this area is the fact that biology
23 for deer is quite a bit different than moose biology or
24 biology for caribou; that deer biology is basically driven by
25 weather. Hard winters can knock a population down; easy
26 winters can contribute to rapid growth. And so in the
27 instance of moose, there probably would have to be some
28 biological analysis to ensure that either -- that the proposal
29 was not going to have any adverse effect. In many cases in
30 small communities, that's probably almost a given because the
31 practice is ongoing and it's not going to stimulate harvest.
32 The reverse could be true in urban centers such as Kotzebue in
33 which you might have a number of people, resident there,
34 taking advantage of a long season and basically taking moose
35 out of their neighbors' backyards in the smaller communities.
36 I'm not saying anyone would do that; I'm saying that that
37 possibility exists so that for moose and caribou, it would
38 have to be looked at on a much more restricted basis to ensure
39 that the things were in place and that's why it was suggested.

40

41

42 At this time, there is no action required of you. If
43 you decide to make a motion to either support it or support
44 the idea of a task force or whatever, you have the option to
45 that. If you decided that it was perhaps important or that
46 one of the communities might be amenable, I would suggest that
47 they get together with the local land manager and try to draft
48 proposal. That way, you'd already have some of the

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biological concerns in there and it would have a better chance of going forward. I can't emphasize the degree to which I think the board was behind this. The fact that you have fairly influential people - John Borbridge from the BIA sat in on this - is an indication of their commitment. In fact, in Southeast, the Designated Hunter Proposal which was adopted was crafted by or written by the Forest Service's representative to the staff committee. I think it's got a highly good chance of going right through there. I mean, the people that would review it are the people that actually drafted it.

11

12 MR. MILLER: Mr. Chair?

13

14 MR. TITUS: Yes?

15

16 MR. MILLER: I've got a couple of questions on this. Say one of these options were to go into effect. Would it be regionwide, community by community, or statewide, or how would that work?

20

21 MR. SHERROD: Well, it would be region -- at best, regionwide. Probably in the case of deer, regionwide was easy in Southeast simply because of deer biology. In this area, I would think we'd be looking at community by community. That may not be the case, but, again as I say, what people were concerned about was that the system be flexible enough to accommodate shifts in population numbers, changes in the population of communities; that some flexibility had to be maintained. And I think that's best maintained at the community or subregional level. I think that this is a very big region with very diverse resource populations and human populations. It would be unlikely that you could just blanketly adopt one of those.

34

35 MR. MILLER: And my other question was, you know, looking at the attendance for the meeting here, it seems to me that it's all agency people. There's no local tribal governments, no representation from any of the villages or communities.

40

41 MR. SHERROD: There was regional council representatives. In some cases, there's an overlap between their duties as regional council members and as tribal members. Fenton Rexburg, for example, from the North Slope basically acts in the capacity as a tribal individual and one of the -- his team that drafted the component, he supervised it, but the drafters of the community or local management action was actually the Fish and Wildlife Resource agency of

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the North Slope Borough. So, there wasn't an intent to actively include; there was no intent to exclude them. With a group this size, I'm surprised we got anything done, but we did manage to get it pulled off. But, yeah, our direction from the board was regional council representatives, staff people, and Fish and Wildlife Service. As it turns out, staff people represent -- because the staff committee represents all five agencies, you get a covering there of the different agencies.

9

10 MR. MILLER: Will these be discussed at the local community levels, too, before anything gets done on them
11 12....

13

14 MR. SHERROD: Well, in the Southeast example, to some degree -- I mean, the action is now at the discretion of this agency or this body. At the Southeast example, what they did is they directed their secretary or their coordinator to draft a letter to all the communities making them aware of the community harvest option; that the task force existed, that there was an opportunity if the community so decided to request the ability to have a community harvest and to submit a proposal requesting that. So, that was the way that they decided to involve communities in this.

24

25 MR. STARR: Mr. Chairman? Where were these meetings held at?

27

28 MR. SHERROD: These were both held in Anchorage.

29

30 MR. TITUS: Yes, Vince?

31

32 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, we do have to let the people leave to go check out and come back. Otherwise, the judge might....

35

36 MR. TITUS: Do I see our bags out on the....

37

38 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah.

39

40 MR. TITUS: All right. We'll take a short break.

41

42 (Off record)

43 (On record)

44

45 MR. TITUS: We're on the Designated Hunter Report. I believe that this report is only to provide information because statewide I know that different regional councils are going to have to deal with proxy hunting proposals or

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community harvest proposals. And I think this report is, from my understanding, it's only guidelines?

2

3 MR. SHERROD: That's the essence of it because I don't
4 think any one component of this is -- you can lift it right
5 out and place it on a community. But with some minor
6 tailoring, I think they can fit. One of the interesting
7 things is after we had met and we explored the option of the
8 community harvest, not community management but community
9 harvest scenario or chapter in here, I did a little bit of
10 quick research and basically I believe that it would
11 accommodate if you just blanketly accepted the fact that
12 communities under 300 people would probably be amenable to
13 this type of process; that it would accommodate something like
14 267 and 24,000 rural Alaskan residents -- 267 communities and
15 24,000 of the rural Alaskan residents. So, I think that there
16 are the tools in here, with a little bit of tailoring, to
17 basically allow a large majority of Alaska's rural population,
18 subsistence users, to be able to achieve at least the goal of
19 the process and that was to allow an individual to harvest for
20 other people. And I think it was pointed out to me that I
21 believe the public comment closing period for proposals is
22 November....

23

24 MR. MATHEWS: November 11th.

25

26 MR. STARR: Mr. Chairman?

27

28 MR. TITUS: Yes, John?

29

30 MR. STARR: I have problems with this when you just
31 come right out and try to make decision on something like
32 this. When -- I'm just one individual from my home town and I
33 can't speak for everybody, you know, and that's the problem I
34 have because this has got to be shown at home or at meetings.
35 And I think they'd have more input on there than me making
36 decisions for them.

37

38 MR. TITUS: Yes, Steve?

39

40 MR. GINNIS: Speaking along the same lines here, what
41 is going to become of this proposal here? Is there someone
42 that's going to be responsible for taking it out to the
43 village communities for discussion and that type of thing
44

45

46 MR. SHERROD: At this point, there's no plans for
47 that. I suppose that that's one of the things that this body
48 could do if they felt that it was important that one or more

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of these options should be explored and taken out. Again, I would say that I don't think anyone here should feel that there is a demand upon you to act on this. The reason that the Southeast Council and the Kodiak-Aleutians Council moved on it was because this is a process they started over a year ago; that they had gathered the information from their village people and they knew basically what they wanted to do. So, this year when this was before them, they were able to take action. There's no requirement that this body take any action on this at all. I think it is pertinent -- you know, I think you all have expressed or some of you have expressed a desire that this should be the kind of thing that goes back to the communities and they look at it and that then a proposal come forth, maybe next year. And that would fit in line with what the task force basically came to a conclusion that these things have to be thought out; that they're complex issues and they have to be tailored. I suppose the positive side is that where that has occurred in Southeast and Kodiak, positive action has resulted in proposals going forward to the board.

19

20 MR. MAYO: Mr. Chairman? You know, just being new on this, I just -- I heard about some of these things before, designated hunter and proxy hunter and stuff like that. You know, like at home, an elder -- you know, all the elders are being taken care of, you know. Any person that can't hunt, their family feeds them, you know. I'm not going to go out and get a moose and bring it to somebody that can't hunt, you know, just for that one person. The whole community should, you know. I don't know, some of this stuff -- but this comes from a different area, too, you know. That's just how we do things in my area, my hometown, you know.

31

32 MR. SHERROD: Well, that was one of the comments that came up in the course of the, I guess, the meeting task forces where it might be acceptable to take someone a Sitka blacktail deer and that a small household, a mother with a child or a widow or someone might be able to utilize all of that animal. But you certainly wouldn't take Grandma a moose and drop it off on her porch and tell her, you know, here's your moose. That's the type of tailoring that would have to be done, is that perhaps the ability for a person to harvest one animal for an individual may not be appropriate, but there may be some other mechanism. One option that was not explored extensively or fleshed out was the idea that perhaps a community would be provided with a limited pool of animals and that from that pool of animals, designated hunters could take them and share them. In other words, you'd have -- for Community A, you'd have ten extra moose -- ten extra moose tags that would allow any hunter to take those ten extra moose

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and when one moose is taken it can then be distributed to four or five or six needy families and that the tag did not have to be that hunter's tag; that he would still have his own permit to go out and take animals for himself and his own family. But you could set up a -- for moose, maybe, you'd set up a pool of animals from which capable hunters could harvest and that those animals could be distributed along the lines of people that needed the resources but were basically unable to get them.

9
10 So, like I say, this is not A, B, C, check it off. This is not something that you have to act on right now. It's just to keep you informed of a process that we went through and I think it also shows the degree of -- or the effort that the Federal program is putting into trying to accommodate some additional practices.

16
17 MR. TITUS: Is there any -- I'm just trying to think right now. I believe it was Lime Village. Did Lime Village present a proposal for a year-round community harvest or....

20
21 MR. SHERROD: They have -- yes, they have a community harvest, year-round, and I believe the quota is -- maybe someone could correct me if I'm wrong. I think it's 200 caribou and 80 moose and they have an individual there that is responsible for the reporting of the take, basically, back to BLM who administers that. To some degree, the 25(D) West situation is, again, an area where permits are issued and they're allocated that the harvest occurs in the community. There's not a great concern whether one person has two permits and takes them or how it's done. It's a community type harvest. And, as I say, this is one option that for a lot of smaller communities probably wouldn't take much modification from what's in the book and wouldn't take much work with the local land managers to develop a system of reporting to implement. But, as I say, in the case of Southeast, they thought it was critical that that come from the communities and one of the -- Gabe George who is the vice chair of Southeast Regional Council was going to actually draft a community harvest option up for his community of Angoon. And, as I say, the council was sending out letters to the other communities, letting them know that this mechanism was available for them to act upon if they so desired. But there was a strong feeling that the board should not force a community into a community harvest option if they did not so desire. For it to be successful, it had to come from the community.

47
48 MR. TITUS: Steve?
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1 MR. GINNIS: Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to know if
2 this has been distributed to communities in Region 9?

3
4 MR. SHERROD: No, this just came off the press about a
5 week ago. I mean, we did this during the summer. It was
6 quite a bit of effort to get the people together and have this
7 report ready for these meetings. And, as I say, the goal of
8 these meetings was to at least allow Southeast and Kodiak to
9 draft proposals and get them into the proposal system by the
10 date of the 11th.

11
12 MR. GINNIS: Is part of the plan to get them out?

13
14 MR. SHERROD: Currently, there is no plan other than
15 finish -- finishing this report and presenting it to the
16 regional councils was as far as the board basically had
17 directed us to go, particularly in the fact that we have now
18 no proposals. This would be an option that this body could
19 request. So, I guess at that level, this is your decision.
20 If this body feels that it's essential that these go out to
21 villages, it can request that of the board and the staff.

22
23 MR. TITUS: Steve?

24
25 MR. GINNIS: Mr. Chairman, in that case, I'd like to
26 make a motion that this document be distributed to communities
27 within Region 9.

28
29 MR. ROACH: I'll second that.

30
31 MR. TITUS: It's been moved and seconded. Discussion?
32 Hearing none, all in favor of the motion say aye.

33
34 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

35
36 MR. TITUS: Opposed? (Pause)

37
38 MR. SHERROD: Mr. Chair?

39
40 MR. TITUS: Yes?

41
42 MR. SHERROD: I have one -- I see Vince taking notes
43 and I assuming that he will follow up on this. The question
44 would be are there particular bodies? In the case of
45 Southeast, it was the city bodies and any IRA or traditional
46 council was designated as -- those would be the individuals
47 receiving the documents. If you could provide some guidance
48 Vince, I suspect, as to actually how wide a distribution

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this should be.

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2 MR. GINNIS: Well, from my perspective, I think the
3 RA, village councils, city governments and any other
4 governmental entity. I mean at least for my area, there is
5 one city government; the rest are village councils.

6

7 MR. ROACH: Mr. Chairman? I'd like to see them go to
8 the Fish and Game advisory committees.

9

10 MR. MATHEWS: I've always got to ask for
11 clarification. Would your request there just be like to the
12 chair?

13

14 MR. ROACH: Yes.

15

16 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

17

18 MR. TITUS: Yes?

19

20 MR. SHERROD: When this was set out to hear, there was
21 also a cover letter. I believe there probably was a copy of
22 that in the book. I would suggest that some cover letter,
23 whether it be this one or another one, be attached to it so
24 they know what it is and, to some degree, what is expected of
25 them.

26

27 MR. MATHEWS: I will make sure that we take the intent
28 of your motion to have this distributed and include a cover
29 letter that accomplishes what the cover letter that you were
30 sent -- it may be that one or an adaptation.

31

32 MR. TITUS: Any more questions? Do you have any more
33 on your presentation?

34

35 MR. SHERROD: No.

36

37 MR. TITUS: Thank you.

38

39 MR. SHERROD: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

40

41 MS. MATTHEWS: Vince, could I ask a favor? Could you
42 also have that distributed to the local land managers as -- so
43 we'd know about it, too.

44

45 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, sure. Just so it's on the record,
46 there's a request to have it also distributed to the local
47 land managers and I would assume that would mean Federal and
48 State?

49

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1 MS. MATTHEWS: Yes.

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: And are you also meaning Native
4 corporations?

5

6 MS. MATTHEWS: I think it's real important to some
7 particular villages. It may not be to all of them, but I
8 would certainly look at them as land managers and interact
9 with them as well, so, yes.

10

11 MR. MATHEWS: I acknowledge that I received that and
12 then we will figure it out.

13

14 MR. TITUS: Okay. Moving on the agenda. Review and
15 Comment on Special Action S94-01, requesting to adjust lynx
16 trapping seasons Units 12, 20, and 25(C) to harvest tracking
17 strategy.

18

19 MR. MATHEWS: Are we up to the lynx proposal?

20

21 MR. TITUS: Yes.

22

23 MR. MATHEWS: Conrad is around here somewhere. To get
24 you prepared for that, you need to go to Tab 8 and under Tab
25 you'll see the staff analysis dealing with the Special
26 Action for lynx, Eastern Interior Region. And I'll see if
27 Conrad is available. Okay. While we're waiting for him, I'll
28 just jump into something else in the meantime. I know it's
29 not a piece of paper, but what we are doing now is setting
30 up -- one duty of Sharie here is to be a recorder or taking
31 down of what you have done with your motions. We didn't get
32 all of them; we got the key motions. I'll pass those out now
33 while we have time that you could look at them, see if we
34 captured them right. The reason I'm doing this now is in
35 preparation when you deal with proposals. And proposals,
36 sometimes we in this room understand exactly what you meant,
37 what your justification was, but, lo and behold, when we go
38 back to the office to do an analysis, it's really not in the
39 transcript because there was this synergy of the moment and
40 the group. So, please review this. I don't know if we'll
41 have time for you to do it on the record to do any editing,
42 but those that actually submitted the motion, look at it
43 closely and if others want to comment that this doesn't
44 capture it, we can do that. Is that understandable? That way
45 when you go back to your communities, if someone says what did
46 you do, bingo, it's here, everyone's talking from the same
47 facts.

48

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MR. TITUS: Same frame of mind.

MR. MATHEWS: Same frame of mind.

MR. TITUS: Steve?

MR. GINNIS: Mr. Chairman, when we get to this Development of Council Proposals, I do have about three motions that I'm going to make here and I don't think it's going to be reflected in this paper you're passing around, so....

MR. MATHEWS: No. Mr. Chairman, the intent of this is just to get it as fast as we can. All of your motions are recorded in the transcript and then from that, I will take them from the transcript and put them into the minutes. This is -- the purpose of this is to make it clear when we leave the room, when possible, what has transpired. Okay. Your motion is not lost. It's on the transcript. This is in some ways duplicating the transcript, but, as an example, we've had discussions in some areas where we'll go back, analyze it, and it isn't clear to us if the person was talking about an antlerless moose season or a cow moose season. Then, we have to try to find out who presented that discussion and sometimes we can't find that individual or whatever. So, this is just a process that will help you when you go back and explain what went on. But your motion will not be lost, if it's not here for your review. (Pause) And while you're reading that, I'm patterning this after -- this is exactly what we do at the staff committee. This is similar to what goes on at the State Board of Game and the Board of Fisheries. They'll receive drafts of what they've done and comment. This is not intended for you to revisit the issue and to take another turn on that. This is just to make sure, the recordkeepers, we have it straight what you want.

MR. TITUS: Okay. We're into the lynx. Did the Council already -- at our last proposal meeting about this here, we already passed a proposal on the Request for reconsideration, I believe.

MR. MATHEWS: I'd have to look at your minutes real quick. This is a special action asking for that. I think, if my memory serves me correctly, you may have discussed the concept of the harvest tracking strategy and adopted that strategy. This is now the application of that strategy on seasons and harvest limits.

MR. ROACH: Mr. Chairman?

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1 MR. TITUS: Yes?

2

3 MR. ROACH: I believe Vince is correct in that we
4 agreed to go along with the strategy that was brought forth by
5 Fish and Game and I think that this is more of a specific....

6

7 MR. TITUS: Oh, okay.

8

9 MR. ROACH:time and date-setting proposal.

10

11 MR. TITUS: Yes, sir?

12

13 MR. GUENTHER: I'm Conrad Guenther. Mr. Chair, this
14 particular issue is dealing with aligning State and Federal
15 seasons. This last summer, the State had an emergency order
16 changing the lynx season to the season that's proposed here.
17 This season, these changes actually affect several other units
18 in addition to Units 12, 20, and 25(C) which you'll be acting
19 on. They also affect Unit 6, 11, 13, and 16, and those were
20 voted on separately by the Southcentral Council.

21

22 This change would change the current trapping season
23 which is December 1 to January 31 to December 1 to January
24 25th. So, it would shorten the trapping season by
25 approximately 16 days. Now, just to give you a little bit of
26 background: Lynx populations are cyclic, as probably most of
27 you are aware of, and they're approximately on an eight- to
28 eleven-year cycle. The cycles are tied in with snowshoe hare
29 populations. In other words, in a nutshell, what happens is
30 when snowshoe hare populations go down, lynx actually produce
31 fewer young and so lynx populations tend to go down with
32 snowshoe hare populations. It's been found that when lynx are
33 continued to be harvested during the low portion of their
34 cycle, because there are fewer young lynx, kits, animals of
35 that year, that a higher percentage of the actual harvest is
36 adults. Under a normal circumstance where there was a fairly
37 large lynx population, a high percentage of the trapped lynx
38 would be kits of the year. What happens with the population
39 gets into this low period or goes into this low period, there
40 aren't as many young lynx and so adult lynx are being trapped
41 at a higher rate. What this does, is it reduces the
42 reproductive potential then because you're taking adults that
43 would produce the next year.

44

45 So, trapping during these low periods actually
46 depresses the population more than it would normally have
47 fallen to and it takes longer for the population to recover.
48 And so in the long-term, what you do is by continuing heavy

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trapping during the low periods in the cycle, you expand the period of time that the lynx are at a lull and so over a number of years you actually have many fewer lynx available to trappers to harvest. So, this lynx trapping harvest strategy allows lynx to recover at a more rapid rate and, therefore, in the long-term provides more lynx available for the trapper.

6

Basically, what the State bases now shortening a season on as the population goes down, is they base it on the number of lynx kits, the percentage of lynx kits of the total numbers that are trapped. The lynx population is in a down cycle now and so the percentage of kittens that are taken by trappers is a smaller and smaller percentage as the population goes down. As that starts happening, since it's almost impossible to go out and count lynx, this is the index that shows that the population is actually falling. And so based on this, then, the State, as the population starts going down and the percentage of kittens in the take decreases, the State strategy is to shorten the season to reduce harvest. Then, as the population starts back up into the up cycle, a higher and higher percentage of kittens will make up the take and seasons will be extended so that you have longer seasons and more animals can be trapped and the population can still grow. So, since the population now -- we've gotten a smaller number of kits, the State proposed an emergency order this last year that would make the season December 1 through January 15th in this area and we have proposed the same season and that is the proposal that you'll be voting on here now, you'll be making our recommendations to the board on to shorten the trapping season in the units that you're dealing with, Units 12, 20 and 20(C) by 16 days, making the trapping season December 1 through January 15th. That's basically all that I have, unless you have questions.

33

MR. ROACH: Mr. Chairman?

35

MR. TITUS: Yes, Jeff?

37

MR. ROACH: I would like to make a motion to support this proposal for Special Action.

40

MR. TITUS: Motion on the floor.

42

MR. GINNIS: Second it.

44

MR. TITUS: It's been moved and seconded. Discussion? eff?

47

MR. ROACH: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to base this motion

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on two justifications. First, the council at our spring meeting supported the adoption of the lynx trapping harvest strategy as being a useful way to measure the viability of the lynx population. And, more importantly, we want to ensure that that population is viable for the subsistence user. And this seems to be the way that everybody agrees that that can be accomplished.

7

8 MR. TITUS: Thank you, Jeff. Any more comments? All
9 in favor of the motion, signify by saying aye.

10

11 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

12

13 MR. TITUS: Opposed? (Pause) Thank you, Conrad.
14 Federal Regulations Proposed Rule Review, Section 9.

15

16 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Mr. Chairman, on that, this is
17 the time where members can bring up proposals they would like
18 the council to submit. This is the time where the council can
19 review the proposals that I handed out from Brian Simpson from
20 Eagle, it's at that time. And as you know, we had discussion
21 earlier about a proposal for Beaver up in Unit 25. (Pause)
22 Chairman, it might be best if you're looking for....

23

24 MR. TITUS: I'm looking for the Eagle one.

25

26 MR. MATHEWS: The Eagle one? I have extra copies for
27 that.

28

29 MR. ROACH: There's an extra one sitting right here as
30 well.

31

32 MR. TITUS: Oh, right here. This is it right here,
33 right?

34

35 MR. ROACH: Yeah.

36

37 MR. TITUS: Brian Simpson?

38

39 MR. MATHEWS: Yes.

40

41 MR. FLIRIS: You've got two of them now.

42

43 MR. TITUS: I have questions from the council. Is it
44 possible to get a staff recommendation on this proposal right
45 now at this....

46

47 MR. MATHEWS: That's what I was going to address.
48 This time is time that's set aside for the council to solicit

49

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proposals. If you would prefer to wait until this is actually published in the board book and then the staff, your other team members, get a chance to develop the analysis, you'll be seeing these proposals again in the board book and at that time you'll have a social, cultural, and biological analysis. It's just that Brian called me up and said he would like you to know of these at this time.

7
8 MR. TITUS: Oh, okay.

9
10 MR. MATHEWS: And, you know, you don't have to take any action at this time on it.

11
12
13 MR. TITUS: Yes, Jeff?

14
15 MR. ROACH: The only comment that I have at this time is on page 3, the second proposal that Brian put forth, was a proposal that we saw last year and we did not support. So, I just note that for the new members that we've seen that before and this council did not support that proposal last year.

16
17
18
19
20
21 MR. TITUS: Is that on the caribou?

22
23 MR. ROACH: Yes, it's on the caribou, page number 3.

24
25 MR. MILLER: Mr. Chair?

26
27 MR. TITUS: Yes?

28
29 MR. MILLER: Could I get the reasoning on why the council didn't support that?

30
31
32 MR. ROACH: Mr. Chair?

33
34 MR. TITUS: Yes, Jeff.

35
36 MR. ROACH: Just from my recollection, Chuck, I mean I don't have the specifics written down here, but I seem to remember that the reason that we did not support that was because we were in favor of the Fortymile Cooperative Management Plan and the whole intent was to increase the size of the caribou herd and a cow harvest seemed to be in contradiction with our desire to increase the size of the Fortymile caribou herd for all the users in the area. That's just the way I remember it.

37
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46 MR. TITUS: So what's the wishes of the council on this proposal? There's two proposals from Eagle. Yes?

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MR. FLIRIS: Mr. Chairman, I think I would prefer to wait until it comes out in the proposal booklet and we've got the staff testimony all lined up and ready to go and then we can -- but it's good to have it ahead of time to look at and read and be prepared for later.

MR. TITUS: Okay. Do we need some kind of motion to that effect or just....

MR. MATHEWS: No, no. You would....

MR. TITUS: We can just go on with the other proposals?

MR. MATHEWS: Just go on with it and I'll just relay Brian if he contacts me that the council wanted a staff analysis before they....

MR. TITUS: Okay.

MR. MATHEWS:delved into it.

MR. TITUS: Steve, you had....

MR. GINNIS: Mr. Chairman, I earlier discussed my concerns about overpopulation of beaver in the Yukon Flats Refuge and also my concern about decline in moose population. I'd like to propose a couple of motions. I move that we adopt a proposed hunting regulation to establish a hunting season for beaver in Unit 25, excluding 25(C), from July the 1st through June the 30th. The justifications are, number one, beaver population is being harvested at a lower level because of low fur prices; number two, subsistence users would benefit from the opportunity to harvest beavers for food. Beavers have been harvested outside of the normal trapping season. Number three, it is widely believed among local subsistence users that beaver populations is at a high level. Number four, beaver are a traditional source of food even during non-trapping seasons.

MR. TITUS: Motion on the floor.

MR. FLIRIS: Second.

MR. TITUS: It's been moved and seconded. Discussion? Hearing none, all in favor of the motion say aye.

ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

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MR. TITUS: Opposed? (Pause)

1
2 MR. GINNIS: Mr. Chairman, because there is dual
management of this resource, I also would like to move that we
petition the Alaska Board of Game to add beaver hunting
regulations to their spring '95 agenda and the justifications
are the same as the previous motion with the addition of this
wording: To encourage increased harvest of beavers to reduce
the harmful effects of beaver dams on migration of fish upon
which subsistence users depend.

10
11 MR. TITUS: Motion, right?

12
13 MR. GINNIS: That's a motion, yes.

14
15 MR. TITUS: Do I hear a second?

16
17 MR. FLIRIS: Second.

18
19 MR. TITUS: It's been moved and seconded. Discussion?
20 Hearing none, all in favor say aye.

21
22 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

23
24 MR. TITUS: Opposed? (Pause)

25
26 MR. GINNIS: Okay. It seems like I've got the floor
here. The next motion, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to move that we
recommend that the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge re-
establish beaver food cache surveys to provide biological
information needed to monitor the status of beaver population.
The intent of this motion here is I believe we need some kind
of monitoring of the population out there. Initially, I was
going to ask for research funding, basically, to open up some
of these streams that have been dammed up, but this motion is
a request that surveys be provided that will help monitor the
status of the beaver population.

37
38 MR. ROACH: Mr. Chairman, can I have clarification on
who are we directing this at? At the Yukon Flats Refuge?

40
41 MR. GINNIS: Yes.

42
43 MR. TITUS: Motion on the floor.

44
45 MR. FLIRIS: Second.

46
47 MR. TITUS: Seconded. Discussion?

48
49
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1 MR. FLIRIS: Mr. Chairman?
2
3 MR. TITUS: Yes, Bill?
4
5 MR. FLIRIS: Steve, what's a beaver food cache survey
6 entail?
7
8 MR. GINNIS: Where's my friends and neighbors here?
9 I've never seen this type of survey before myself, so -- they
10 call it a cache survey.
11
12 MR. TITUS: Cache.
13
14 MR. GINNIS: C-a-c-h-e.
15
16 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, as we discussed on the
17 record before that we were -- staff assisted Mr. Ginnis in
18 drafting these proposals. That's why he's asking for
19 clarification at this time.
20
21 MR. GUENTHER: Mr. Chair. I'm Conrad Guenther.
22 Mr. Chair, a beaver cache survey would -- beavers cache food
23 for the winter and so if survey flights are flown, you can
24 locate these and you can base estimates on population size
25 relative to the number of caches.
26
27 MR. FLIRIS: Mr. Chairman?
28
29 MR. TITUS: Yes.
30
31 MR. FLIRIS: Just out of curiosity, what time of the
32 year do you make that kind of survey?
33
34 MR. GUENTHER: It's a fall survey.
35
36 MR. FLIRIS: Late, late, late fall?
37
38 MR. GUENTHER: September. Late September just prior
39 to ice-up.
40
41 MR. FLIRIS: Yeah. I was just curious because we had
42 some pretty high water in September this year and wiped out a
43 lot of beaver food caches and I'm sure they're busy rebuilding
44 right now.
45
46 MR. TITUS: Any more under discussion? Hearing none,
47 all in favor of the motion say aye.
48
49 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.
50

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1 MR. TITUS: Opposed? (Pause)

2

3 MR. GINNIS: Mr. Chairman, I have one more and then
4 I'll get off of this thing here. The other issue that I
5 brought out was the low moose population in Unit 25(D) West.
6 And subsistence moose harvests in Units 25(D) West and East is
7 extremely important to the local residents. The moose
8 population in Unit 25(D) West is estimated at one moose per
9 ten square miles which is three to five times lower than 25(D)
10 West in other interior areas. Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I'd
11 like to move that we support the Yukon Flats National Wildlife
12 Refuge efforts to solve this problem through their proposed
13 moose study and development of a cooperative moose management
14 plan with the villages of Stevens Village, Beaver, Birch
15 Creek, and Fort Yukon. And, further, that we support the
16 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge efforts in their moose
17 movements and distribution study.

18

19 MR. ROACH: I'll second that.

20

21 MR. TITUS: It's been moved and seconded. Discussion?
22 Hearing none, all in favor of the motion signify by saying
23 aye.

24

25 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

26

27 MR. TITUS: Opposed? (Pause)

28

29 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman?

30

31 MR. TITUS: Yes.

32

33 MR. MATHEWS: Due to the length of the motions,....

34

35 MR. GINNIS: I'll give them to you.

36

37 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you.

38

39 MR. ROACH: Mr. Chairman?

40

41 MR. TITUS: Yes.

42

43 MR. ROACH: I don't know if there are any here, but
44 I thought now would be a good time to open it up for public
45 testimony for any proposals.

46

47 MR. TITUS: Do we have any proposals from the public
48 do we have any comments from the public? (Pause) Okay. I

49

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guess....yes, Craig?

1

2 MR. GARDNER: Craig Gardner. I don't know how public
3 this is. I'm Fish and Game. But there's a proposal that I'm
4 entertaining to put forth through the department and there's
5 no promise this is going to go through, but I think it's also
6 something this council should consider. I'm thinking about
7 trying to get a spike-fork moose season opening up in Units 12
8 and 20(E) to begin on August 20th. And, you know, the normal
9 season date opener is the 1st of September for most of the
10 unit and then 5th of September up by Eagle. So, what this
11 would do if this would go through is, you know, allow spike-
12 fork moose hunting from August 20th through September 5th.
13 And I say the Eagle area; along the Yukon there. And then
14 I'd be any moose, you know, for the remainder of the season.
15 You know, and the season that starts on the 1st of September,
16 I'd be the 20th through the 1st for any moose. But I think
17 I'd really benefit the subsistence users in the area. I
18 don't think we'll have a lot of outside hunters come hunt just
19 for spike-fork. That's something you might want to consider.

20

21 MR. TITUS: Thank you, Craig. What did we do with the
22 Annual Report? Did we table it till the end of the....

23

24 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. Mr. Chairman, it was you that
25 wanted to table it to the end because you had some concerns
26 what....

27

28 MR. TITUS: Yeah. So, we can get back to that right
29 now, I guess.

30

31 MR. MATHEWS: If you're not going to take action or
32 anything with the request from Craig Gardner, I think it'd be
33 good idea just to verify on record that there's no one else
34 here that wants to approach the board to submit a proposal or
35 idea for a proposal.

36

37 MR. TITUS: Do you have that -- Craig, do you have the
38 proposal in writing right now?

39

40 MR. GARDNER: No, not for the State. They have to be
41 in by December 7th. I'll have it....

42

43 MR. TITUS: Oh.

44

45 MR. GARDNER: I'll try to have it written in the next
46 couple weeks, probably.

47

48 MR. TITUS: Oh, okay. Yes, Frank?

49

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1 MR. ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I just have a real quick
2 question. When are like the proposal deadlines for the
3 Federal -- what's the deadline on that?

4

5 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, it's November 11th to
6 submit proposals and if you need assistance with writing any
7 or the forms, we have forms here. But you'd have to send them
8 in by November 11th.

9

10 MR. TITUS: Thank you. Are there any more proposals?

11

12

13 MR. FLIRIS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I'm working on a
14 resolution. I don't know if that counts as a proposal or not,
15 if we should just wait and put it in the Annual Report.
16 It's up to you. I don't know if it's appropriate to make it
17 into a proposal because it's a Fisheries -- it's the one about
18 the factory trawlers and I don't know if the Subsistence Board
19 has any jurisdiction, but I'd certainly like to see them get a
20 copy as well as the Secretary of Interior and the Secretary of
21 Commerce. So, I was wondering, maybe Vince could help out if
22 that would be better as a resolution or a proposal.

23

24 MR. TITUS: Yes, Vince?

25

26 MR. MATHEWS: If you're asking about your -- the
27 council taking action on the trawlers and Open Sea Fisheries,
28 probably would be best as a resolution to deal with that
29 than a proposal. A proposal would go into the analysis
30 process. If team members want to verify this? It would go
31 into the analysis process and then be thrown out as a non-
32 jurisdiction. And so it may not see the two secretaries that
33 you mentioned. So, it'd probably be best as a resolution
34 which would allow me to draft a cover letter to it, I would
35 assume, and get that to the Secretary of Interior, Commerce,
36 and the Federal Subsistence Board, if that's the motion you're
37 going to pass.

38

39 MR. FLIRIS: So, we can wait on that till the Annual
40 Report section?

41

42 MR. MATHEWS: If I understand correctly, I think we're
43 in the Annual Report section.

44

45 MR. TITUS: Yeah, we need to put something in it.

46

47 MR. FLIRIS: That'll be it.

48

49

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MR. TITUS: From my understanding, there's no really justification for an Annual Report, as I understand it. Yes, Jeff?

3

MR. ROACH: Mr. Chairman, we have in the past asked for input from the Federal Subsistence Board as to their desire to the content of an Annual Report. I think that maybe the introduction to our Annual Report this year, if we do decide to put one in and I would like to do that, would be what we would like some feedback from the Federal Subsistence Board on future Annual Reports, whether they are actually required or if it's up to our councils to determine that. And I'd just like to see that as basically the introduction.

13

MR. TITUS: If that was in a motion form, we'd get response from the Federal Subsistence Board, right?

16

MR. ROACH: I would like to make that a motion that the introduction to our 1994 Annual Report would be a request for feedback from the Federal Subsistence Board as to the content of the Annual Report.

21

MR. GINNIS: I'll second the motion.

23

MR. TITUS: It's been moved and seconded. Discussion? Hearing none, all in favor of the motion say aye.

26

ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

28

MR. TITUS: Opposed? (Pause) Okay.

30

MR. FLIRIS: Okay. Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a motion to include this resolution in the Annual Report to the Federal Subsistence Board and also that a copy be sent to the other regional councils throughout the state and to the Secretary of Interior and to the Secretary of Commerce. And anybody can think of anybody else that needs it, send it to them, too. This is the proposed wording for the resolution: Whereas the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council is concerned with the health of salmon stocks in the Yukon drainage; and whereas it is well-documented that factory trawlers presently operating in the Bering Sea for pollack are allowed a by-catch of other species, including salmon; and, whereas it is also documented that a large portion of these salmon, chum and chinook, are of Western Alaskan origin, therefore, be it resolved that the council would like to see immediate curtailment of this wasteful practice.

47

MR. TITUS: Motion on the floor. Do I hear a second?

49

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1 MR. GINNIS: I'll second the motion.
2
3 MR. TITUS: It's been moved and seconded. Discussion?
4 All in favor of the motion, say aye.
5
6 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.
7
8 MR. TITUS: Opposed? (Pause)
9
10 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, on his wording on that --
11 and then would the council allow me to work with Mr. Fliris on
12 the intent of the cover letter that would go with that
13 resolution so we don't have to deal with it now?
14
15 MR. TITUS: Sure.
16
17 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. And then I would run it by him
18 and then he would agree with it or whatever. Okay. Thank
19 you.
20
21 MR. TITUS: Jeff?
22
23 MR. ROACH: Just -- I would ask that the coordinator
24 also get copies of that back to us, additionally, as members.
25
26 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, on that, my projected
27 thing is to -- I'm not going to give you a date, but the
28 minutes would get back to you also as soon as I get them
29 completed even though they're a draft or unapproved. And then
30 motions will be typed up; you'll see them again. But I'm not
31 going to give you a date on that. Next week is Western
32 Interior and their agenda is not as packed as yours, but I
33 have a faint feeling they're fired up on a few things, too.
34
35 MR. TITUS: Any more proposals or resolutions? Now,
36 where are we at on the Annual Report? Was that -- did we deal
37 with that on the first motion?
38
39 MR. MATHEWS: In the first motion, it indicated to me
40 that you're going to have an Annual Report. The Annual Report
41 will have the motion that you wanted feedback from the Federal
42 Subsistence Board on what is in the content of the Annual
43 Report. The resolution you have just adopted, and that's it
44 that I know of. There was discussion earlier, potential ones,
45 but I leave that up to you to select those.
46
47 MR. TITUS: So, if we're going to do an Annual Report,
48 it'll have to be at the next meeting, right?
49
50

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1 MR. MATHEWS: No, the Annual Report -- no, no. The
2 Annual Report is due November 15th which due to the fact --
3 I'm guessing here, due to the fact that there has not been a
4 response to the last Annual Report, I'm sure hoping that
5 deadline will be extended to December sometime, the Annual
6 Report for this year.

7
8 MR. TITUS: Okay.

9
10 MR. MATHEWS: So, I think you may want to charge me to
11 have the Annual Report run by your officers or something like
12 that. I'm hesitant to say the full council. It's at times
13 very difficult to get a hold of council members. It would be
14 best if officers or a committee or something that would be the
15 review on it.

16
17 MR. TITUS: I think that's how it was done in the
18 past, was you kind of like draft up an Annual Report and mail
19 it out to the council members and they have a chance to look
20 at it or change anything in the content of the report and....

21
22 MR. MATHEWS: I can do that, Mr. Chairman, but I would
23 be kind of hard-nosed on it that I would have a time deadline;
24 that if I didn't hear anything, that's it, because otherwise
25 everybody's schedule gets real busy and then I can't get a
26 hold of people. So, it'd be best that if we do this, we put a
27 date on there just so I'm not going to say in two days. I
28 would probably put a....

29
30 MR. TITUS: It doesn't....

31
32 MR. MATHEWS:two week....

33
34 MR. TITUS:have to be really long and complicated
35 like our last '93 one. It just dealt with major issues that
36 the council....

37
38 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, I thought you wanted a four-
39 volume....

40
41 (General laughter)

42
43 MR. TITUS: It just dealt with issues and positions
44 that the council took. Actions that the council took.

45
46 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Would the council be
47 uncomfortable with if I put like a seven-day comment period on
48 like your -- if it was sent out, you know, the date that's

49
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on the letter, like seven days, and if you have a comment, you would contact me at the 1-800 number. And if I don't hear anything in seven days, it's okay?

3

4 MR. TITUS: It's in stone?

5

6 MR. MATHEWS: It's in stone? Okay. Did you get that on the record? So, it'll be seven days. And the reason we're doing that is because the time line -- I'm not trying to rush anything by anybody. This Annual Report thing as you've known in your resolution needs to be resolved. I think it'll be a topic of discussion in our office.

12

13 MR. TITUS: I think it'll be a topic of discussion for awhile.

15

16 MR. MATHEWS: Um-hum (affirmative).

17

18 MR. TITUS: Anything more? Do we have any more comments from the public. Future meeting plans, time and place.

21

22 MR. ROACH: Mr. Chairman?

23

24 MR. TITUS: Yes, Jeff?

25

26 MR. ROACH: I was looking at the calendar that we have before Tab 1 and Vince has penciled in the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd of March and we -- he and I have discussed some of the reasoning for that date being the public comment period on the C&T determination and some other factors. And that date sits well with me and I'd like to see it happen on the March 1st, 2nd, and 3rd. And as far as the place, right now, I don't really have a preference. Fairbanks seems to work better as far as a central location for people to get to if there's no major issue in an outlying community.

36

37 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, just to make it clear, when you select the date which would be comfortable under the present scenario that the board goes through with its Federal Register for the C&T. If they go through with what you passed and delay it, then we change it. But I would still stay with this date, but I don't want to mislead you that there's going to be a Federal Register out on the 17th on that C&T process. And the other thing is if you're drafting this -- well, you don't have to have a motion on it. I'm not sure it'll be a three-day meeting, et cetera. You know, don't let that factor into that. And then the last thing is I feel kind of compelled -- I'm not sure, give me some direction on this --

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there was quite a bit of discussion by the council members that, one, they didn't feel there was adequate information from the communities affected by this C&T for Upper Tanana, that process. There was concern that there may not have been opportunity for them to speak. Is Fairbanks, if that's the way you're going, convenient for those communities?

6

7 MR. TITUS: Steve?

8

9 MR. GINNIS: Mr. Chairman, my feeling on the meeting place is that I think we need to have meetings out in the affected communities. I think in one of the villages -- I mean, I think we ought to have some meetings in the villages. Since the formation of this council, it seems that a lot of the meetings are taking place in Fairbanks. At least last year, I think that's where it was held. And my thinking is that we need to start getting out in the communities in this region that we all represent.

18

19 MR. TITUS: Any more comments?

20

21 MR. MAYO: Mr. Chairman?

22

23 MR. TITUS: Yes, Randy?

24

25 MR. MAYO: You know, talking about the C&T that affects these people up here, you know, how come their councils or somebody isn't here talking, you know? But, you know, if this is a big issue coming up, then, you know, maybe the next meeting should be down this way and have their councils present to speak for themselves, you know.

31

32 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I don't want to go over old ground, but the report had a short time span of being out in the field, the purple report, the Proposed Conclusions, and this was a request by this council to have a last look at this before it went to the staff committee. The real time that before your action that you've taken on this -- the time for real public recommendations -- yes, I want it, no, I don't want it -- would have been under the proposed rule. So, in a way, that's why you may not have seen as many present at this meeting.

42

43 MR. TITUS: Yes, Steve?

44

45 MR. GINNIS: Mr. Chairman, I move that our next meeting be held in Northway.

47

48 MR. TITUS: Motion on the floor. Do I hear a second?

49

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1 MS. PETRUSKA: Second.
2
3 MR. TITUS: It's been moved and seconded. Discussion?
4 Hearing none, all in favor of the motion say aye.
5
6 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.
7
8 MR. TITUS: Opposed? (Pause)
9
10 MR. MATHEWS: Is that -- is the intent of that to be
11 around March 1st through the 3rd?
12
13 MR. TITUS: Tentative.
14
15 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. I'll need to work closely with
16 the chair on making sure of the facilities and all that.
17
18 MR. TITUS: Dog race weekend.
19
20 MR. MATHEWS: That's good.
21
22 MR. TITUS: Bring your mushing boots.
23
24 MR. GINNIS: Do you have any dances?
25
26 MR. TITUS: Topics, issues and subjects of our
27 meetings. I believe we're going to do C&T in that meeting.
28
29 MR. ROACH: We should also have proposals, spring
30 proposals at that meeting as well.
31
32 MR. TITUS: Oh, yeah, all the proposals that were
33 submitted would probably -- would the staff analysis be
34 available at that meeting, too?
35
36 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. Mr. Chairman, I'm trying to
37 find -- computers are great, but -- you had something earlier
38 that was an agenda item, but I have it in my notes and it's on
39 the record as another agenda item that I can't seem to find
40 here.
41
42 MR. TITUS: Oh, yeah, I remember now. Oh, one of the
43 Montasta co-management plans.
44
45 MR. MATHEWS: Correct. That's right. National Park
46 Service ranger requested that it be on the agenda at the next
47 meeting.
48
49
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MR. TITUS: Right.

1
2 MR. MATHEWS: The Mentasta plan. And it's general --
3 since we're talking plans, that's why we have that section
4 under there under reports and that's where -- from the
5 agencies. But that's where the representative from this
6 council can add and report back. So, I can put a slot in
7 there for reports from the representatives to these management
8 plans.

9
10 MR. TITUS: Um-hum.

11
12 MR. MATHEWS: And that way if Jeff, for some reason,
13 not able to attend the meeting, then he'll be charged to
14 come up with a report in case of his absence.

15
16 MR. ROACH: That's good, because the Fortymile plan is
17 right now projected to be brought to the council for their
18 spring meeting.

19
20 MR. TITUS: Okay. I'd just like to mention to the
21 other council members that if there's anything that comes up
22 their region that they think that this council should deal
23 with, just give Vince Mathews a call and ask him to put it on
24 the agenda and I believe that we can deal with it at that
25 time. Right?

26
27 MR. MATHEWS: I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman.

28
29 MR. TITUS: No, I was just pointing out to the other
30 council members that if there was some kind of issue or
31 anything that the other council members want to discuss
32 particular from their geographic region, that they can give
33 you a call and ask to put it on the agenda.

34
35 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, that's true, and also that it's
36 aware to everybody that the agenda is a draft until you
37 approve it, so you can add it at that time. Are we into
38 closing remarks, Mr. Chairman?

39
40 MR. TITUS: Yeah.

41
42 MR. MATHEWS: I just want -- I'm not saying a closing
43 remark. I just want to make one suggestion. Other councils
44 sometimes have one of their members, generally an elder,
45 assist with opening the council meeting, either with a prayer
46 some kind of remark and then closing with that. I'm
47 wondering if that council would like to do that. It really
48 sets the tone for the meeting. I know that we're ending, but

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in the future, you may want to look at that as an opening remark from a council member or someone that's present in the public that you would like to say that. So....

3

4 MR. TITUS: Okay.

5

6 MR. GINNIS: I think that's a good idea. At this meeting, maybe you should close with a prayer.

8

9 MR. MATHEWS: Who?

10

11 MR. GINNIS: You.

12

13 MR. MATHEWS: Me? Well, I was hoping you would ask Mr. Starr on that. I'm really -- I'm uncomfortable doing that. I'm not....

16

17 MR. GINNIS: No, I'm just kidding.

18

19 MR. MATHEWS: I'm getting gray hair, but I'm not that old.

21

22 MR. TITUS: Does the council have any more comments?
23....(pause) Yeah? Go ahead, Steve.

24

25 MR. GINNIS: Mr. Chairman, I just want to say that this is my first meeting and I've had an opportunity to meet a lot of folks that are involved in this thing. I didn't realize there were so many staff people and, you know, all of the other agencies that we have to deal with. And I've had an opportunity to deal with them and I appreciate their help in some of this work that we have to do here. Thank you.

32

33 MR. TITUS: Thank you. Any more comments? Remarks?
34..?

35

36 MR. FLIRIS: Yeah, I would like to echo what Steve said. I really appreciate the help from all staff people and advisory people and local comments that we got, and we couldn't do a job without all of that input. So, thank you very much.

41

42 MR. GINNIS: I move to adjourn.

43

44 MR. TITUS: There's no other comments?

45

46 MR. GINNIS: Oh, sorry.

47

48 MR. TITUS: Go ahead, John.

49

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1 MR. MATHEWS: Did you want a closing remark or....

2
3 MR. STARR: Me?

4
5 MR. MATHEWS: I don't know.

6
7 MR. FLIRIS: John, we were talking about how it'd be appropriate to have an elder give some closing remarks to bring us back down to earth and keep us going in the right direction.

11
12 MR. MATHEWS: It could be a prayer or it could be just a concern or just a feeling or something.

14
15 MR. STARR: Well, this is my first meeting, too, and the -- I was thinking about the issues here and then I was -- and all the staff people, everybody working on this. And like said before, you know, when we make comments and what we have to do, we've got to think about years and years down the line. And this is my first meeting with this council here and it's -- our work is cut out for us. I can see that. Because like I say, we're doing it for the people, so we've really got to, you know, think about that. And I want to thank everybody here, and I can close with a prayer. It's up to everybody here.

26
27 (Mr. Starr gives closing prayer)

28
29 MR. GINNIS: I'll move to adjourn.

30
31 MR. ROACH: Second.

32
33 MR. TITUS: It's been moved and seconded and third.
34 in favor of the motion, say aye.

35
36 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

37
38 MR. TITUS: Opposed? (Pause)

39
40 (Off record; 4:45 o'clock p.m.)

41
42 *****
43 MEETING ADJOURNED
44 *****

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)

) ss.

STATE OF ALASKA)

I, Elizabeth D'Amour, Notary Public in and for the State of Alaska, residing at Fairbanks, Alaska, and electronic Reporter for R & R Court Reporters, do hereby certify:

That the annexed and foregoing EASTERN INTERIOR SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL HEARING was taken before me on the 21st day of October, 1994, beginning at the hour of 8:30 o'clock a.m., at the Tok Civic Center, Tok, Alaska;

That this hearing transcript, as heretofore annexed, is a true and correct transcription of said hearing, taken by me electronically and thereafter transcribed by me;

That the hearing transcript has been retained by me for the purpose of filing the same with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1011 East Tudor Road, Anchorage, Alaska, as required by law.

That I am not a relative or employee or attorney or counsel of any of the parties, nor am I financially interested in this action.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal this 27th day of October, 1994.

Notary Public in and for Alaska

My Commission Expires: 5/12/98

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